

Complete Draft Analysis

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 2, Issue 16
June 15, 1987



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Bill Walton Battling Back

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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 16
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Cover . . .

Bill Walton's career has constantly been fraught with injuries. The physical problems, though, have only increased the desire and fortitude of this superlative athlete. Bill's story now, is one of battling back, hopefully in time for the Finals. Cover photography by Steve Lipofsky.

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A nation of sportswriters and fans have been captivated by this year's Celtics team. A team of incredible perseverance and desire.

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The ever controversial Dick Vitale takes a moment to analyze this year's crop of talented youngsters.

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Three DJ's



Don, Donna and Dwayne: Johnson and Johnsons.

There was a gathering of DJ's at a recent Celtics playoff game at the Boston Garden, as captured by *Celtics Pride* photographer Steve Lipofsky in the photo above. Joining Donna and Dwayne Johnson, the wife and son of Celtics'

guard Dennis Johnson, for a visit was Don Johnson, the star of TV's "Miami Vice". The actor watched the Celtics defeat the Chicago Bulls and then visited the players in the Celtics locker room after the game.

Sixth In Kodak Poster Series In This Issue!

The Kodak/Celtics Pride pull-out poster series continues in this issue. We at *Celtics Pride* and all the good people at Kodak hope you enjoy this special feature. Poster Photography by Steve Lipofsky.

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

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Executive Editor:
Tod Rosensweig
Managing Editor:
Porter C. McKinnon

Associate Editor:
Robert Schron

Associate Editor:
Tony Cooper

Associate Editor:
Daniel Borgman

Advertising Director:
Mark Lev
(617) 523-6050

Subscription Inquiries:
Mark Drefs
(203) 966-6092

Staff Photographer:
Steve Lipofsky

Contributing Photographers:
Nat Butler
Chris Lauber
Moira Mills

Contributing Writers:
Red Auerbach
M.L. Carr
Eddie Gillooly
K.C. Jones
Terry Lyons
Glenn Ordway
Production Director:
Mark Drefs

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Celtics Battle Injuries as well as Opponents
Playing With Pain

In the closing minutes of the 3rd period in Game 7, the deciding game of the Bucks series, the familiar ghost entered the Celtics lair again. "I looked over and saw Danny (Ainge) lying there," said Larry Bird, the team's Captain. "You begin to wonder if it's worth it."

Indeed; Ainge had attempted to block a soaring drive by the Bucks' Paul Pressey, only to collide in mid-air with the Bucks' star. Ainge went sprawling to the floor—a badly bruised medial collateral ligament in his inner knee. This was the ligament Bernard King injured when the Knicks star was forced to miss nearly two seasons. Two years is what this season has felt like to many of the Celtics players and officials this year. And it has continued in the playoffs.

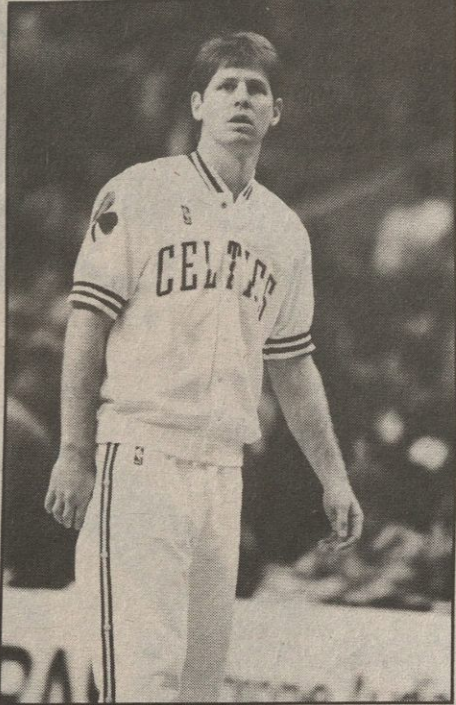
Injured during the regular season: Bill Walton, Scott Wedman, Danny Ainge, Larry Bird, Kevin McHale, Dennis Johnson, Jerry Sichting, Sam Vincent, and Robert Parish. The Celtics players missed an astounding 181 games to injury this year.

The tale continued in the postseason. The trail to the championship claimed the key players, Kevin McHale, Danny Ainge, Bill Walton, and Robert Parish along the way. The path to the cherished goal of back-to-back titles nearly hit a roadblock in the Bucks series. In truth, the Celts were staggering physically; K.C. Jones commented, "Are we wobbling? Isn't it obvious?"



Kevin McHale: An Example for us all.

The disaster began in Game 2 of the Bulls series, when McHale sprained an ankle in the 2nd period. He played on it anyway, but strained it further and also aggravated a healing stress fracture in his right foot. He was forced to miss the 3rd game of that series and after a week off (after the Celtics' sweep of that set), he



Danny Ainge: Shaky Knee.

also missed the series opener against Milwaukee.

Jones at first didn't want to bring McHale off the bench. "He would have been cool after sitting maybe a half-hour after the team warmed up before the game. He might reinjure himself because he'd be chasing players who were all warmed up." But in Game 2, McHale told Jones he could play and McHale played 25 minutes off the bench. He increased that playing time to 38 in the 3rd contest, an overtime affair and he has continued to "play through" the pain of the existing stress fracture.

"I've played one way since I was 13 years old," he told *The Boston Globe*. "I only know one way to play."

As does Walton. After an outstanding opener against the Bucks (7 rebounds in still limited playing time), Walton aggravated his foot and also suffered a stress fracture of the navicular bone. He was devastated initially; his brilliant form seemed to have been returning, but now he was out again. He has been able to practice only sparingly and at press time, wasn't counted upon to make a major contribution in the Detroit series.

This was critical because in a spectacular Game 5 performance against the Bucks, Parish severely sprained his left ankle, rolling it over when he fell on Sidney Moncrief. The Celtics would lose that fifth game (if they won, they would have clinched the series) and Parish was forced out of Game 6 in Milwaukee. "It hurts," he told reporters. "But I'll play Sunday. With the Bucks' 121-111 win in Game 6, Sunday was a Game 7. Parish was the best player on the floor, scoring 23 with 19 rebounds. He doesn't particularly crave recognition, but the realization has struck the Hub like a Revere ride: Parish is critical to this team and always has been.

The final injury to Ainge also placed a subtly important player on the shelf, at least temporarily. Ainge "could barely walk" the following day but still hoped to play in Game One of the Detroit series. "The difficulty," advised Team Doctor

Thomas Silva, "is that these men's careers involve running and jumping. The decision to play must come from the player and is between the player and coach."

"But I won't go to the player and ask if he wants to play," says Jones. "That would start a long round of discussion (that I don't think is appropriate). The player has to come to me to say he can play."

As the Celtics headed into the final rounds, they continued to play with pain. But with amazing courage, excitement, and success.

Parish Keys Celts
Victory Over Detroit

The Celtics didn't look much like a team on its last legs Tuesday as they muscled their way to a 104-91 victory against Detroit in the opening game of the Eastern Conference finals of the NBA playoffs.

"I don't think they're tired or hurt," said Pistons guard Isiah Thomas.

Robert Parish and Kevin McHale are playing on gimpy ankles and Danny Ainge didn't dress because of sprained knee ligaments. Nevertheless, the Celtics pulled away in the third period.

Parish had 31 points and Larry Bird had a triple double with 18 points, 16 rebounds and 11 assists.

The key statistic for Detroit was that Isiah Thomas was 6 for 24 from the field. He still led the Pistons with 18.

"Isiah wanted to win so badly that he was too hyper," said Detroit coach Chuck Daly. "We were too excited as a team. This is a new level for us and we have to understand it."

Celtics, 104 — Detroit, 91
at Boston Garden

BOSTON												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts					
McHale	44	7-13	7-9	2-6	1	1	21					
Bird	44	7-22	4-4	2-16	11	4	18					
Parish	43	10-12	11-12	0-9	2	4	31					
D. Johnson	44	8-18	2-2	2-7	7	3	16					
Sichting	41	5-10	2-2	0-1	4	5	12					
Roberts	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0					
Vincent	8	1-4	0-0	0-0	0	0	2					
Daye	8	1-1	0-0	1-1	1	0	2					
Kite	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0					
TOTALS	240	50-75	26-29	7-40	26	18	104					

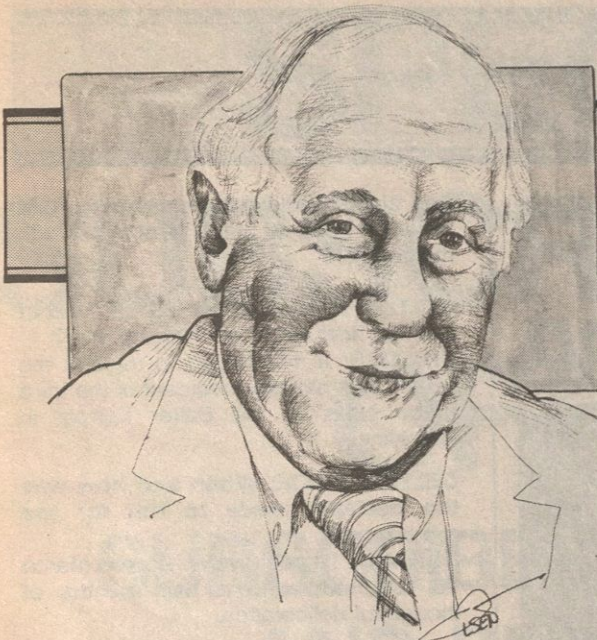
Percentages: FG—52.0, FT—89.7, 3-PT FGs—100.0 (D. Johnson 0-1, Sichting 0-1, Bird 0-3). Rebounds: 9 Team. Blocked shots: 5 (McHale 2, D. Johnson, Vincent, Bird). Turnovers: 17 (Bird 6, D. Johnson 3, Roberts 3, Parish 2, McHale, Sichting, Daye). Steals: 9 (Bird 2, Sichting 2, McHale, Parish, D. Johnson, Roberts, Daye).

DETROIT												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts					
Mahorn	39	7-11	0-0	3-11	0	5	14					
Dantley	38	7-17	3-4	3-4	2	3	17					
Laimbeer	32	5-12	0-1	5-10	1	4	10					
Dumars	31	5-10	0-2	0-1	3	0	10					
Thomas	40	6-24	6-6	3-7	10	3	18					
V. Johnson	25	7-15	1-1	2-4	2	1	15					
Salley	25	3-5	1-3	3-6	1	5	7					
Rodman	10	0-1	0-0	0-2	0	4	0					
TOTALS	240	40-95	11-17	19-45	19	25	91					

Percentages: FG—42.1, FT—64.7, 3-PT FGs—100 (Laimbeer 0-1, Dumars 0-1, Thomas 0-3). Rebounds: 6 Team. Blocked shots: 7 (Mahorn 2, Thomas 2, Laimbeer, Dumars, Rodman). Turnovers: 16 (Dantley 3, Dumars 3, V. Johnson 3, Salley 3, Thomas 2, Mahorn, Rodman). Steals: 6 (Thomas 3, Dantley, Dumars, V. Johnson).

DETROIT												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts					
Deston	26	18	31	29	-	104						
Detroit	22	18	28	23	-	91						

Technical fouls: Detroit 2 (illegal defense, 33 1st; Thomas, 06 3rd); Boston 3 (delay of game, 40 3rd; Parish 6:57 2nd; Coach Jones 4:33 2nd). A: 14,890. T: 2:02. Officials: Mathis, Crawford, Mahalik.



Ask Red Auerbach

QUESTION: Do all of the championship banners hang from the Boston Garden rafters all year long? Are they ever cleaned?

Matthew Thompson, St. Albans, West Virginia
RED'S ANSWER: Rest easy, Matthew. Those banners hanging from the rafters are not dirty. We have them cleaned each summer. They are removed shortly after the end of each season, cleaned and then packed away until the next year. I have noticed, however, that some of the older ones are starting to look a bit yellow and frayed around the edges, but I guess that's really a part of their charm.

QUESTION: Just recently I have visited the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. I just couldn't believe the size of Bob Lanier's sneakers! Could you tell me the sizes of the present Celtics' shoes?

Beth Gerhard, Manchester, Ct.
RED'S ANSWER: You asked for it. Here are the shoe sizes for our players.

- Danny Ainge—11½
Larry Bird—13½
Rick Carlisle—14
Darren Daye—13
Conner Henry—12
Dennis Johnson—12
Greg Kite—16
- Kevin McHale—15½
Robert Parish—16
Fred Roberts—15
Jerry Sichting—10½
Sam Vincent—13
Bill Walton—17
Scott Wedman—15

EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: Do NBA teams use a new ball each game?

Don Ford, Orlando, Florida
RED'S ANSWER: No. In fact, a new ball is never used in a game. The game balls are balls that have been "broken in" in practice. You can almost tell by looking at an NBA ball that it's in the middle of its usefulness, at its peak. The new balls are very orange, but the sweat from the players' hands darkens the color of the balls through time. One more point of information about the balls that might interest you: the same ball is used throughout the game. The game ball never changes during the game. At halftime, a member of the scoring crew hangs onto the ball to keep the teams from using it to warm up for the second half.

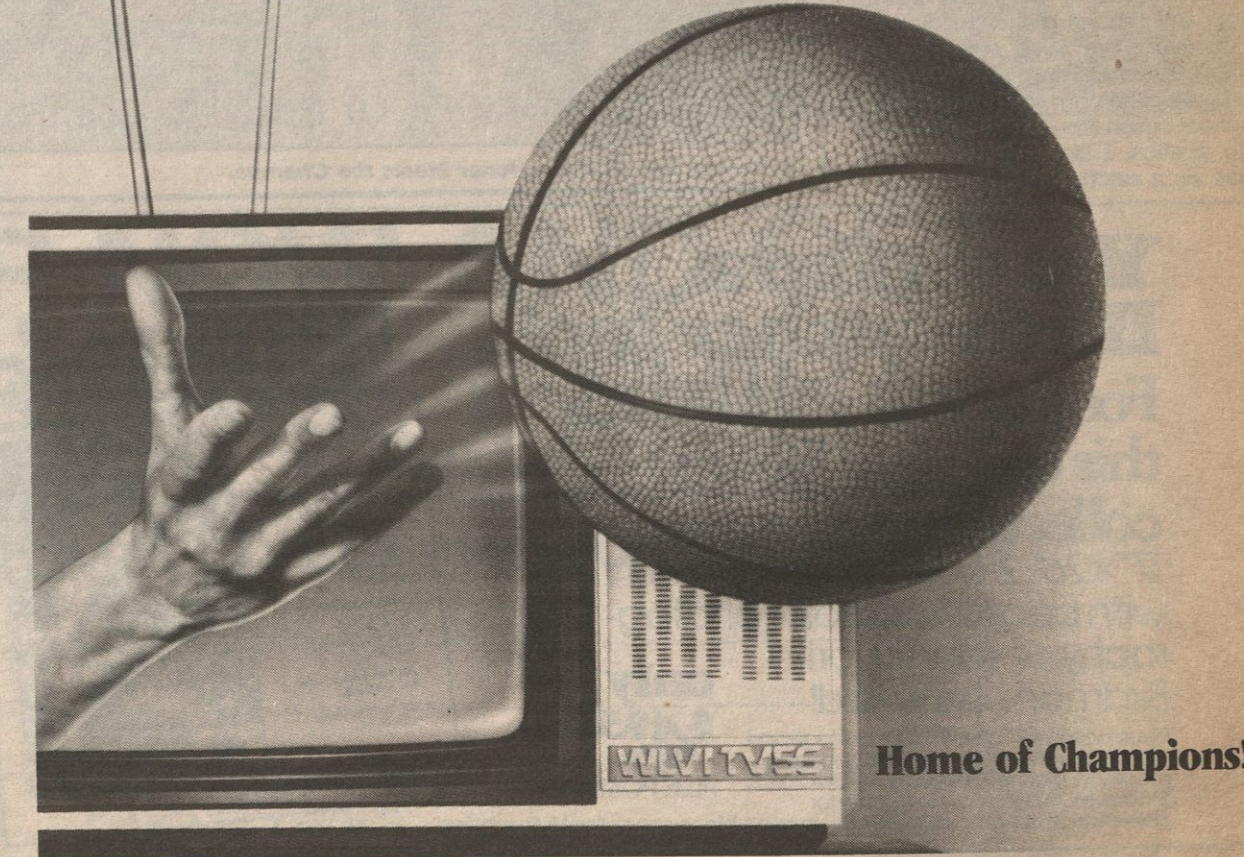
QUESTION: During the course of a basketball game, how much weight does a player lose?

Ken Schlosser, Buffalo, New York
RED'S ANSWER: Naturally, that depends upon the individual player, but it's obvious that a basketball game takes a great deal out of every player. Any fan who sees how much these guys sweat in a game knows that they have to have a severe loss of liquids during a game. I would venture to guess that guys can lose anywhere from 5 to 10 pounds during a game; don't forget, though, that these are huge people, and that the weight loss is just temporary, to be regained when the body's liquid supply is refilled. I remember that Paul Silas, a great forward who starred for us in the mid-1970's, used to lose as much as 15 pounds during a game. In fact, he used to completely change his uniform at halftime because it got so heavy for him to drag around.

QUESTION: Looking through the league statistics of years gone by, I was struck by the fact that hardly anyone shot 50% or better from the field for the season. Now, it seems that entire teams shoot over that figure collectively. Is the shooting better or the defense worse?

Joe Vinarski, Pittsburgh, Pa.
RED'S ANSWER: That's an interesting question. I suspect the correct answer is a combination of the two. There's no question that, in general, today's players are better athletes than those 30 years ago. They can run faster, jump higher, they're bigger and stronger—and yes, they can shoot better. However, as you suggested in your letter, much of the emphasis on basketball these days at the early levels is on scoring, with little attention paid to defense. Let's face it—it's fun to shoot a basketball and not so much fun to sacrifice yourself for the good of the team by playing defense. As just about everyone who's ever heard of me knows, I believe that the key to winning basketball lies in making that sacrifice and playing defense. I was fortunate that some of the guys I coached, Bill Russell and K.C. Jones in particular, understood that concept and studied defense just like everyone these days studies offense.

When the Celtics are away...
they're at home on 56
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Home of Champions!

Innerview

On March 16, Governor Michael Dukakis declared his candidacy for the presidency of the United States. The Boston area native has served his state diligently and successfully throughout his tenure and has enjoyed tremendous community support. As he began the latest of his challenges, he graciously spared some time with *Celtics Pride* to answer a few questions about his life, interests and ideas.

CELTICS PRIDE: How long have you been a Celtics fan?

DUKAKIS: I was born and raised in Brookline and can truly say that I followed the team from its very inception. I was a fan since they were first established.

CELTICS PRIDE: What are some of your favorite memories in regards to the Celtics, either on or off the court?

DUKAKIS: The memories that come to mind are "Havlicek Stole The Ball," the incredible virtuosity of Bob Cousy's dribbling and passing skills and Ed Sadowski shooting hook shots.

CELTICS PRIDE: Do you get a chance to attend many games?

DUKAKIS: Over the past few years, I was able to attend many regular season and playoff games which were quite thrilling, but lately, I haven't been able to attend as many as I'd like... especially now.

CELTICS PRIDE: Are you really able to "let your hair down" and cheer at the games, or does your position as Governor preclude this behavior?

DUKAKIS: Yes... I can cheer with the best of them.

CELTICS PRIDE: What sports did you enjoy when growing up?

DUKAKIS: I enjoy cross-country running. I ran the Marathon in 1951 and was a distance and regular runner for a long time. Currently I've been enjoying the benefits of power walking. I also played a lot of basketball when in school, in fact, my high school coach first encouraged me to go into politics. I also played a lot of baseball, as a catcher, mostly because I

Governor Dukakis Shares His Views Boston's Favorite Son



Governor Dukakis: His Honor Meets the Champs.

was able to hold onto a swinging third strike. Nowadays I play a lot of tennis with my children.

CELTICS PRIDE: When did the field of politics first begin to interest you?

DUKAKIS: It first began to interest me when I was elected president of the third grade class at the Baker School in Brookline.

CELTICS PRIDE: When and how was the decision made to run for the presidency?

DUKAKIS: I made my decision on March 16, after two and a half months of thoughtful deliberation.

CELTICS PRIDE: What concerns you most about the country's immediate future?

DUKAKIS: There are two aspects of our future which concern me, which I would like to address: 1) To build an economic future for America that provides genuine opportunity and good jobs for every American in every state and region of the country. 2) To create a foreign policy that reflects American values.

CELTICS PRIDE: What uplifts you the most in regards to the country's future?

DUKAKIS: I'm uplifted most by this country's spirit, its people and our limitless capacity for optimism in spite of our disappointments.

CELTICS PRIDE: We know that you're extensively involved with the Celtics in the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs... How is the campaign proceeding?

DUKAKIS: The program is doing very well, thanks to the Celtics commitment to our cause and the efforts of M.L. Carr, we now have more than 260 cities and towns enlisted in the Alliance, with more joining every day. (Cities and towns throughout Massachusetts can join the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs by calling the statehouse at 727-0786).

CELTICS PRIDE: What more, in your opinion, can we all do in helping to battle drug usage?

DUKAKIS: We must begin drug education in the early elementary grades, and consequently create an environment in which our children can feel good about saying "NO" to drugs. Our Goal: Drug Free Schools by 1990.

CELTICS PRIDE: Why is it, do you feel, that so many retired athletes from professional basketball decide to seek a career in politics?

DUKAKIS: Mostly, I feel it's because they genuinely care about this country and about its future also, because they are well known and can win public support. Bill Bradley is a very good example of this kind of commitment.

CELTICS PRIDE: What do you see in the future for the city of Boston, its inhabitants, businesses and quality of life?

DUKAKIS: I envision a future of good jobs, decent and affordable housing; vibrant growth, and a high quality of life for all of its citizens and all of its neighborhoods.

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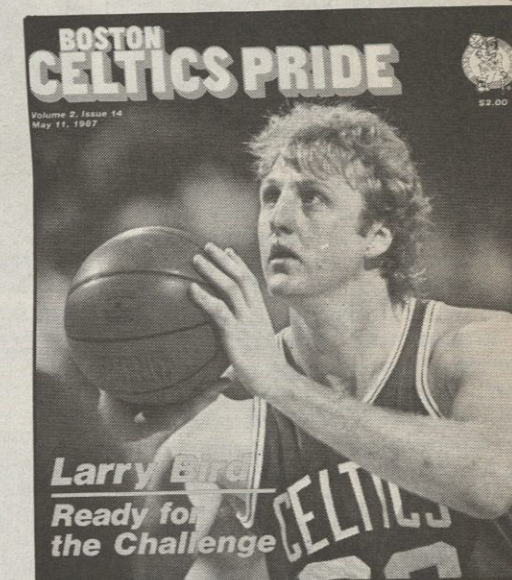
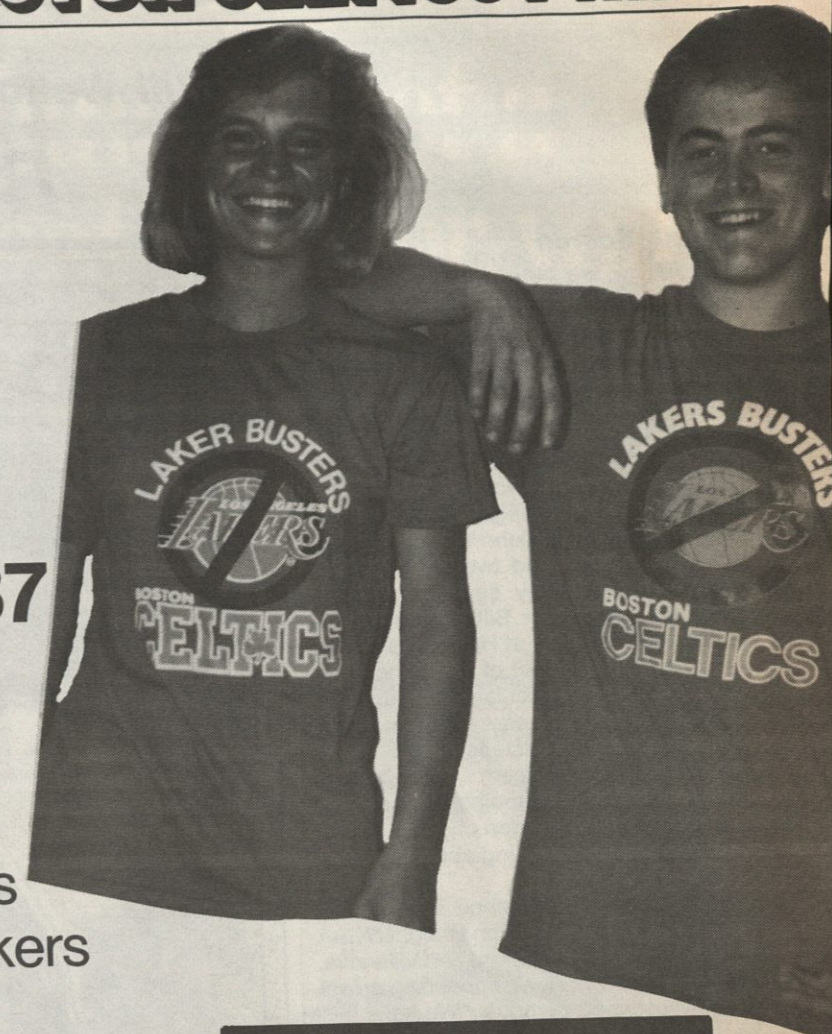
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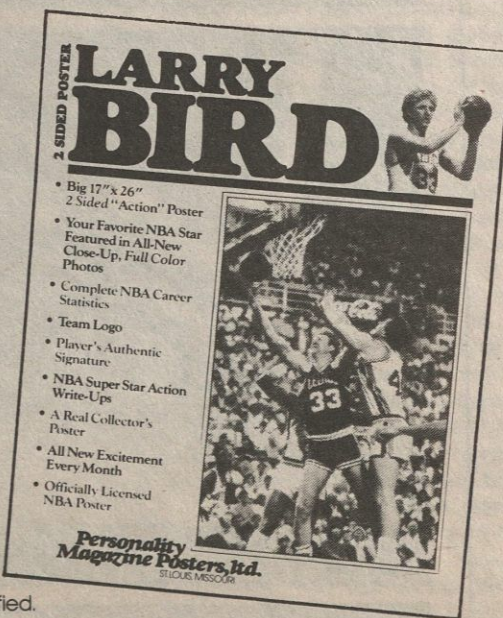
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Bill Walton Is No Stranger to Adversity

Battling Back

By Bob Schron

They are older, now. Bill Walton and Maurice Lucas formed the strong force of the nucleus of the Portland Trail Blazers in 1976-78 when that small Northwest city ruled the basketball universe. Walton then was a lean, muscular 24-year-old power center. He was a defensive player extraordinaire, a dominant player who was realizing the potential of his college days at UCLA when he paced that John Wooden team to 88 straight wins and two NCAA championships. The early seventies were a storybook dream for Bill Walton: a high school All-American at Helix High School in La Mesa; a student of the game at the center position, particularly Bill Russell of the Celtics; and a star in Bruin Land, following in the footsteps of his model while at Helix, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Walton was so outstanding, so thorough as a player, that Wooden chose a significant time to begin talking about Walton's talents.

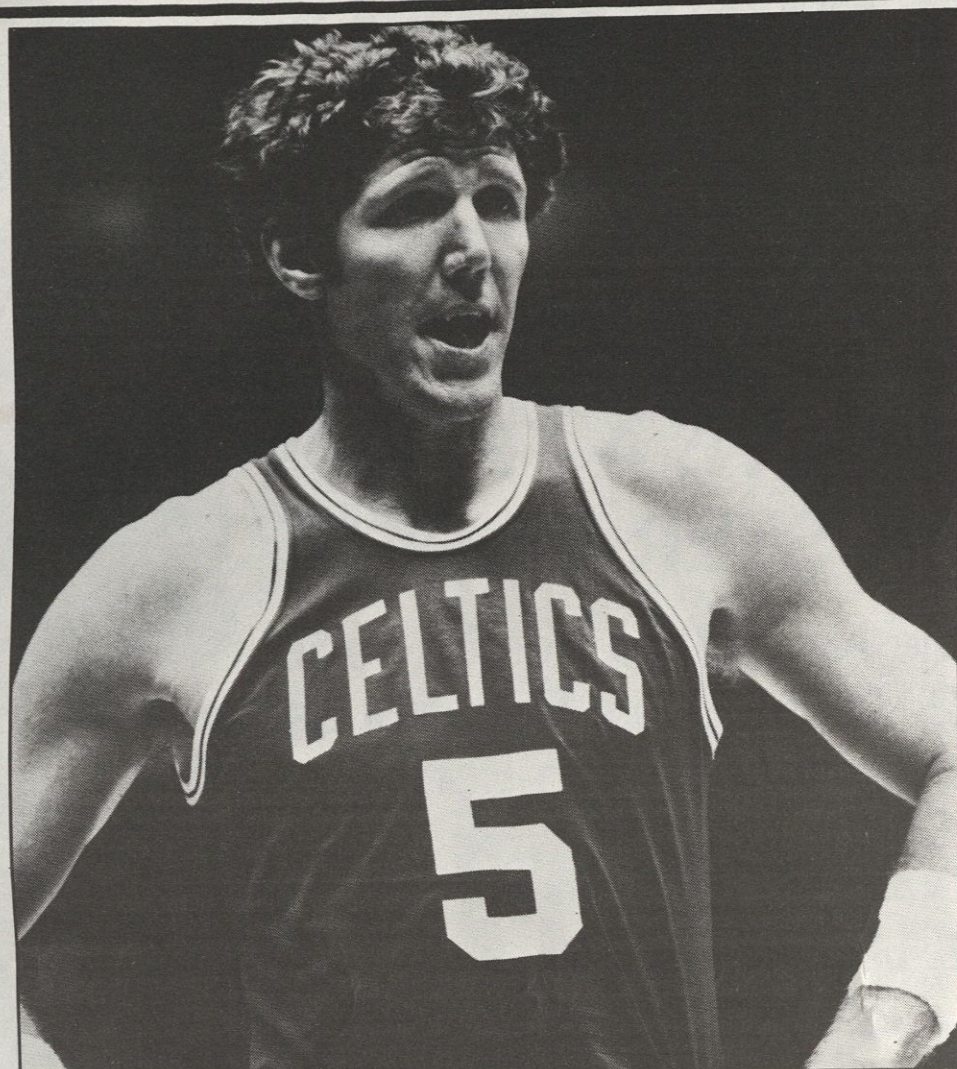
At the press conference immediately after UCLA had won its fifth straight NCAA title in 1971 over Chris Ford and Villanova, Wooden hailed Walton's impending arrival to the Westwood campus. "We have this freshman Walton who throws the outlet pass for the fast break better than any player I've ever had." The story of Bill Walton's early professional career is common knowledge; he spent two seasons nursing assorted injuries and disillusionment in Portland until 1976-77, when Lucas, Coach Jack Ramsay, and a host of important support players arrived. A special unique chemistry was the result. It brought an NBA championship in 1977 when the Blazers rallied from a two-game deficit to steamroller the Julius Erving Philadelphia 76ers. Professional basketball isn't different from other cultural activities in our society. Heroes and events move quickly and outstanding people are forgotten too easily.

But the team championships heroes, (legitimate heroes), like Larry Bird and Magic Johnson have fashioned in the eighties had as their physical and mental foundation the achievements of Walton's Trail Blazers. Portland was the best, just as UCLA and Walton had been so overpowering. Now in the late eighties, as Bill Walton struggles to regain a sense of place with the Celtics, trying to win another battle with his legs, it is the right moment to ask how great is Bill Walton?

"I'm not a great center," Walton told a writer recently. "I have limitations. My minutes are regulated and I can only help certain teams. The best thing I ever did was work out this deal to come to the Celtics. It was far better than I had ever thought possible."

"Bill Walton understood defensive positioning like no one else in the history of the game," claimed Maurice Lucas, now with the Seattle SuperSonics. When Lucas and Walton were together, Lucas was the premier power forward in the game. "I could play my man any way and Bill would be back there, able to pick up any adjustment. Bill knew exactly how and when to make a switch, which is absolutely necessary in the NBA."

Lucas' team now, of course, was headed again into the Western Conference finals



Big Bill never gives up.

What They're Saying About Bill

Howie Dallmar, former coach at Stanford during Walton's collegiate career: "Bill Walton destroys you. He's better than Bill Russell at their comparative development. My center, Mike Mann, is six-nine and Walton appears to be seven-one next to him. But to me he looks like he's seven-eight. He's the best college player I've ever seen, better at both ends of the court than Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) was—he dominates like no college player in the history of the game."

John Wooden, Walton's Coach at UCLA, 1972-74: "I've never seen a shot-blocker the equal of Bill Russell. But imagine what Walton would do if he were playing under the same rules Russell did—with the narrower lane and the absence of basket interference rules. Walton is the type of player who wouldn't have to score at all—yet he'll dominate the game. And the pleasant thing is he enjoys not scoring."

Jack Ramsay, Walton's Coach at Portland when the Trail Blazers defeated the Los Angeles Lakers and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar en route to the 1977 NBA championship: "I don't think anybody has ever played Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as well as Bill Walton."

Curry Kirkpatrick, senior writer for *Sports Illustrated*, covered the series for SI: "Bill Walton has finally arrived on the same plateau as Abdul-Jabbar;... his classically balanced passing and rebounding, his quick shots and outlet bullets, his savage defense and intelligent command of all phases of the game are more than enough to match his adversary's greater offensive powers. The play showed that pro basketball has a brand-new Russell-Chamberlain rivalry to savor."

K.C. Jones, Walton's Coach in Boston: "Bill Walton came to the team as a basketball legend. He had won National Championships in college where he broke our USF record. He had been the key factor in leading Portland to a big win in the NBA in 1977. It seemed he had done everything there is to do in basketball. He is no kid. Larry Bird loves to razz him by telling him that when Larry and his pals were little and playing in the backyards of French Lick, Indiana, Bill was their hero."

"Because of a series of damaging injuries that Bill had suffered over the years, Bill's playing time had been restricted. Yet I knew he wasn't coming to Boston to play four or five minutes and then sit on the bench. I was sure he was ready to play a lot of intense basketball again."

against the Lakers. He knows what it takes to succeed in the pros. "When your big man goes down, you realize that your team is only as good as your center. Bill could defend and he would take clutch shots for our team. I think the Trail Blazers would have been a dynasty. We had youth, camaraderie, and we knew we could win any game." When the Sonics were in Boston in February, Lucas and Walton and Bill's wife, Susan Walton, dined together. Luke Walton, Bill and Susan's son (the couple have four sons), is named after Maurice Lucas. "Bill's private," observed Lucas. "His emotions are private. If you know him as a friend—you know he's totally dedicated to the game. I would have quit with his injuries. Bill would love to play a lot of minutes. He's resigned to less... he's fortunate to be out of the Clipper situation and to be with people like the Celtics."

Bill Walton's legendary talents exist alongside his solitary battle with injury. The latter is long in years, painful to recount. There were the bothersome knees at UCLA and a wrist injury and a nose fracture in Portland. Later, in 1978, ankle problems and a broken foot sent his career careening toward another fate. Walton tried to play on that broken foot in Game 2 of the Western Conference final series against Dennis Johnson and Seattle and he had to ask out of that game in the 2nd quarter. Unthinkable! Physically he's never been the same and his talents on the physical level have declined some, too. After missing most of the next three seasons after leaving Portland in righteous anger, he nevertheless reconstructed his career well enough in the Siberia of the league, the LA Clippers, to negotiate the deal with GM Jan Volk of the Celtics to be a vital part in the franchise's 16th title. This season has been terribly difficult for the player; he broke a finger before Pre-Season, injured his ankle in an informal workout, and missed most of 1986-87.

Walton's arrival in Boston—in a trade for long-time favorite Cedric Maxwell and a first round draft choice—was met with some apprehension but mostly gratitude by the sophisticated Boston basketball audience. Before his first game last season, he was greeted to a long standing ovation; during the game, when he began an eventual championship collaboration with Robert Parish and Bird, he played effectively but in the final minutes, K.C. Jones went to Parish as the Celtics protected a win. Susan Walton watched Bill come out of the game and commented, "That's hard for Bill. He wants to be out there when the game is on the line." Indeed; this is the player who was the league MVP (1977); College Player of the Year (1972, 1973, 1974); Walton shot 21-22 in the NCAA championship game in 1973, a performance perfection-laden. He was the heart of the Portland franchise until he broke his foot. He resurrected his career and garnered the NBA Sixth Man Award last year. Bill Walton not only is a record holder: he has a total understanding of the team game and the ability to elevate his game of style and substance when the cards are on the table.

"I was prepared to go on with my life even after I couldn't play basketball," Walton said. "The memories of the good days in Portland are right here (Walton

pointed to his head, his mind). We had the game down, playing it right. Johnny Davis was a great fast break guard, Dave Twardzik a terrific post-up little player. Maurice Lucas was a superb player for us... (Lucas) still is a fine player. The unfortunate part of the Portland situation is Luke's career would have been much greater if he had stayed in Portland. And I let someone else be my voice of reason (regarding playing on a broken foot). But you go on; I felt very good about playing again by the time I came here. I had played 67 games my final season in Los Angeles. (According to Ailene Voisin, who covered the Clippers for the *LA Herald Examiner*, Walton belonged on a team like the Celtics because he was becoming increasingly disenchanted playing with players who apparently accepted losing). I needed to compete again, even if it meant coming off the bench in Boston."

How to assess Bill Walton? Still, one of the all-time best. Stimulated by political activism and the idealism of youth, perhaps the greatest college player ever. Maturing physically, at 24, the animated driving force behind an NBA champion. Then, however, injury and a tragic turning point. Now Walton's greatness resides deeply in the continuous courage he has as a man and as a basketball player. Don't be misled: Walton remains a staunch liberal politically but he's a family man too and takes that responsibility very seriously. But Walton deflects interviews aimed at his private life to the subject of basketball,

where he still inspires. In the early eighties, Walton was really the protagonist in David Halberstam's tour de force about professional basketball, *The Breaks of the Game*. K.C. Jones and Larry Bird constantly support Walton's lingering greatness, his importance to the team. If there is a sense of the tragic in the aura of the man, aura reserved for the greats, that tragedy rests in dream: Would Could Have Been.

Bill Walton won championships in three basketball locales. He has been part of winning streaks (UCLA; Portland's and Boston's home skeins) and has won duels with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to win two professional titles—Abdul-Jabbar, one of the reigning kings of this era. It's 1987. The game is played even higher above the rim by the likes of the young greats in the pivot, Olajuwon, Ewing, even Sampson. In last June's final series, was there a single play more important than Bill Walton towering above the rest—once more—to dunk an offensive rebound to capture Game 4 on the road in The Summit? Or this season—his great return in Indianapolis, when the team needed to win on the road during the last week race with the Hawks to win the Eastern Conference championship? Or his maximum efforts to return to the floor, with the strong support of Susan Walton, this season when the Celtics attempt to make history and repeat for the first time since 1969?

Bill Walton: success, intensity, loss, strength, and courage. Bill Walton: one of the game's greats.

Self-Portrait



Bill Walton

Date of Birth and Place: November 5, 1952 at La Mesa, CA

Goals in Basketball: To win as many championships as I can in the years I play.

Goals After Basketball: Undecided. Possibly some business ventures on the west coast.

Favorite Performers: The Grateful Dead

Ideal Evening: Two I can think of. Spending some time on the beach and then having a suitable party with friends into the night. The second would be a continuous Grateful Dead concert, again playing through the night.

If You Could Go Back In Time, What Year Would It Be and Why? I wouldn't mind going back to the night we won our first championship at each level of competition. In college at UCLA, in the NBA at Portland and in Boston. To feel fully healthy again!

I hope I never have to: Go through major rehabilitation again.

People who knew me in high school thought I was: Dedicated to basketball and a free thinker

My Most Repetitive Fantasy: Playing the game until I'm 40

The Best Time I've Had: Winning the championship last season

The Worst Time I've Had: Being injured and missing most of three seasons after I had signed a long-term contract with the Clippers

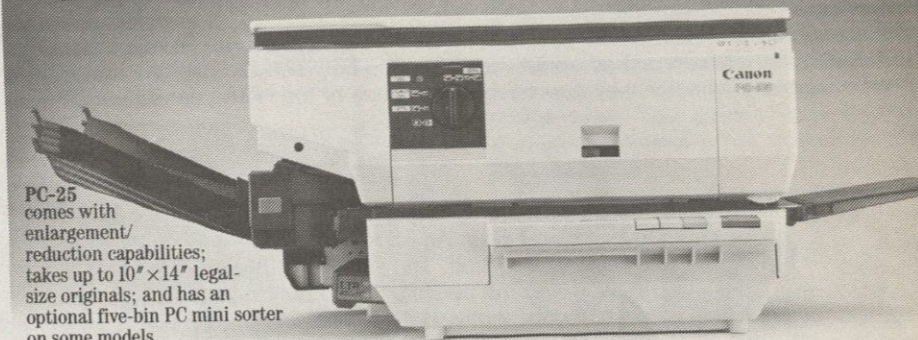
Last Book Read: *Reagan's America: Innocents at Home* by Gary Wills

Favorite Meal: Well-prepared beef and fresh vegetables. But I generally enjoy eating well.

If I went to the Moon, the people I'd bring with me: Informed thinkers and good conversationalists regarding politics; my wife and family; the Dead; the friendly faces, who if I brought them, would bring the coast of California along.

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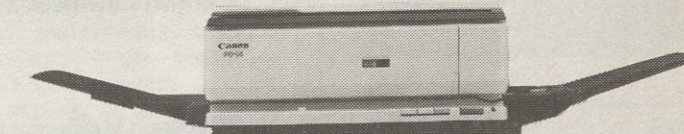
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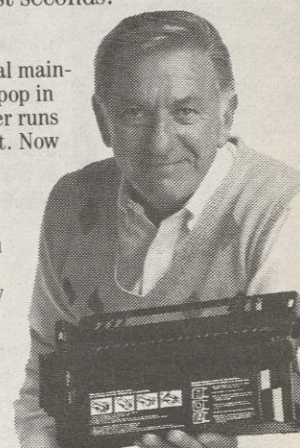
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Celtics Perspective

What is the Major Difference Between the Playoffs and the Regular Season?

How do the playoffs and the regular season differ for the Celtics? Much is made about the meaning of the regular season: Is it too long? Are the games meaningless because most teams make the playoffs anyway? This is an appropriate question for this team; they came within one game of winning sixty games for the fourth straight season in 1986-87. They have won 75% of their games during the past eight years.

After the grueling seven-game classic against the Milwaukee Bucks, the Celtics players and coaches were asked about the difference between the playoffs and the regular season and whether they approach each phase of the NBA year differently.



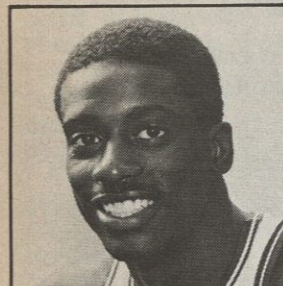
Larry Bird

Larry Bird: I try to approach the game the same way every time I play. Any difference I have to make in my routine has to hurt. The difference between the regular season and the playoffs is you play the same opponent several consecutive games. I think you learn what moves you can make, how a man is guarding you, and what a team's tendencies are. I think good defense is a factor. I think good crowd support can definitely help, such as in the 7th game last week against Milwaukee.



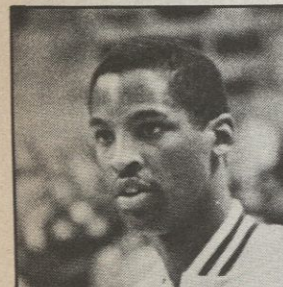
Bill Walton

Bill Walton: There is nothing I enjoy more than being able to go out there playing against the best. That is what the playoffs are all about. I think you have to make the most of your minutes when you're in the game. When you're on the bench, even in practice. Somehow you have to find a way to contribute. This season's been tough. I believe I can make a strong contribution to the team when I feel right. But it hasn't really come around all year. But I'm totally supportive and hopeful we're the best.



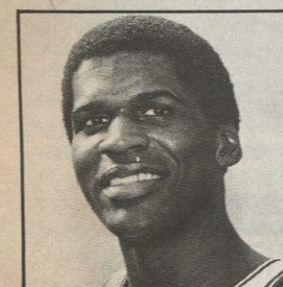
Sam Vincent

Sam Vincent: The regular season is different because the intensity of the games are considerably different than in the playoffs. In the regular season, travel is sometimes impossible and it seems as if it's nearly impossible to play at the peak of your abilities. In the playoffs, the preparation is much more thorough and you're under a lot more of the spotlight. But it's what you play for as a player. You want to be in those situations.



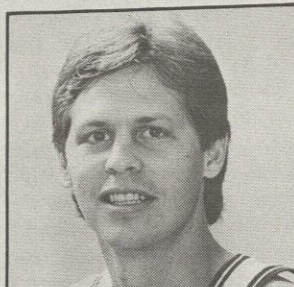
Darren Daye

Darren Daye: I think the playoffs are emotionally and mentally demanding. You have to be able to contribute the maximum, even if your minutes are limited. I think you have to be concentrating the whole time you're out there—whether it's watching from the bench, out there on the floor, at your normal position, or with different people in a new combination. It's a matter of adjusting and still playing well and winning it.



Robert Parish

Robert Parish: I think the difference in the playoffs is that teams want to win each game, each minute that they're out there. The games are more physical, the intensity is more telling, and the demands on the players are much greater—from the opponents, from the pressure involved, from the media which increases, and from the desire of everybody in the community to have a winning team. You have to block these factors out and concentrate on the matters on hand.



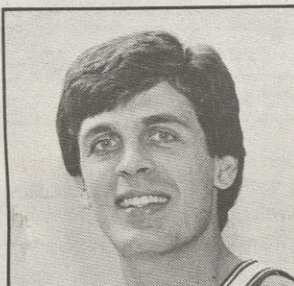
Danny Ainge

Danny Ainge: The regular season is different, absolutely. You play the whole year, traveling and jockeying for position. In the playoffs, no holds barred. You try to give it your all on every possession, much less every game. You try to win the big prize. It sets you up for incredibly high moments. It can set you up for low feelings, too. You just hope you can play your best game in the playoffs.



Greg Kite

Greg Kite: I think the best part of being on this team is we never doubt we can win, regardless of the circumstances. I think in the playoffs it's important to approach each game one at a time, but when a team gets momentum behind them, that sometimes is hard to do. The regular season is a test because it is so long and sometimes the games are scheduled so closely you don't have much time to practice.



Kevin McHale

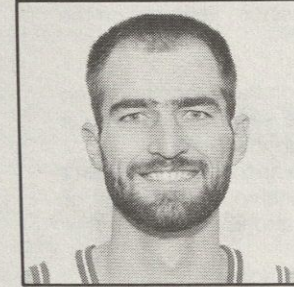
Kevin McHale: In the playoffs, there really is no tomorrow. You play with injuries as our team is well aware of this year. You play with more abandon and you play for all the chips on the table. You don't hold anything back because summer vacation is seemingly always just a defeat away. It's a time of incredible highs and lows and it's a time you need to keep to yourself a lot. I won't make very many appearances. I'll want to have close friends around me.



K.C. Jones

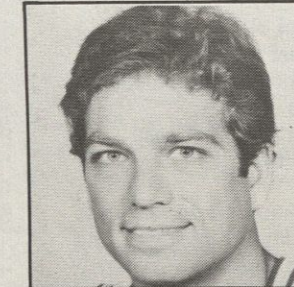
K.C. Jones: I think in the playoffs there is a premium on physical and mental strength. Physically, most of the time the difference between winning and losing is on defense. You have to play it well to win.

Mentally, you have to be very determined and you have to concentrate much harder. The game plans are hopefully more precise; the will to win on the part of your opponent is often as strong as your own.



Fred Roberts

Fred Roberts: The regular season is a feeling out period, from the way I can see it in my first year here. It seems the Celtics were made to play in the post season. It's been a strange regular season, with all of our injuries and makeshift lineups. We were always adjusting to new people all year. In the playoffs, we have had a unity of purpose, if we still have had to play injured.



Jerry Sichting

Jerry Sichting: These are the games you play your career for. I'll want to take the big shots. I'll want to be out there when the game is on the line. The playoffs are a time when everybody on the team will hopefully pull together. Hopefully you'll have your game going the way you've wanted it to develop all season long.

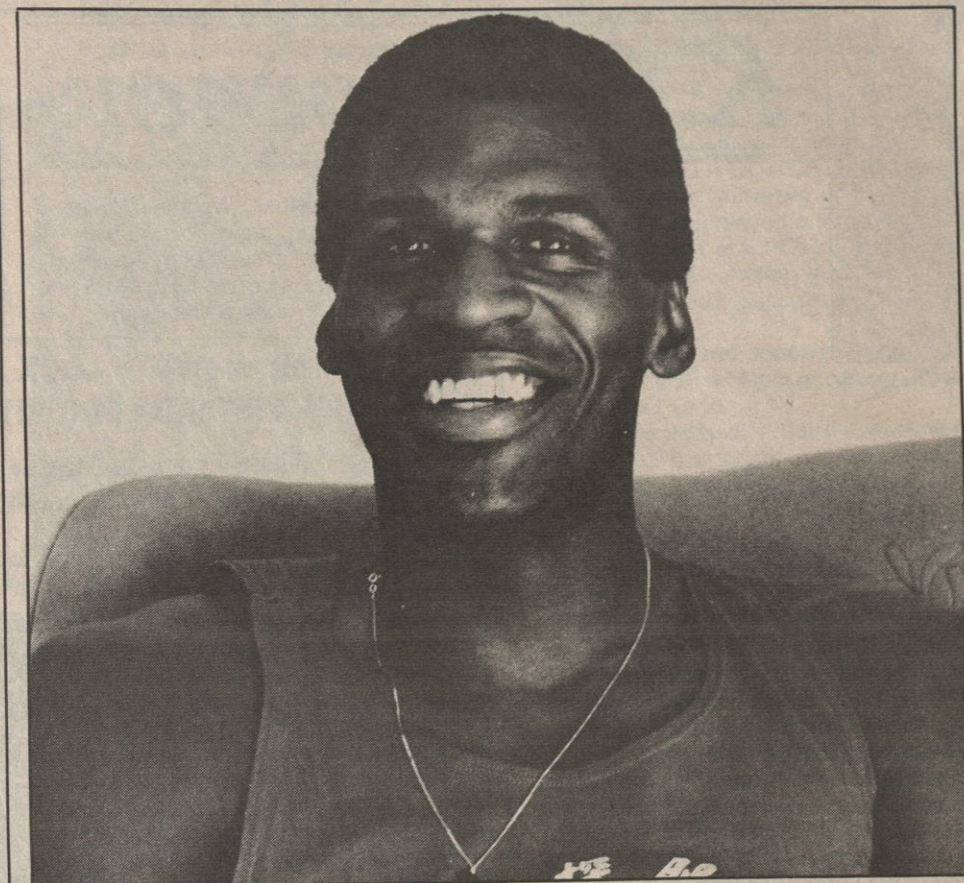
Celtics Diary

Robert Parish turned in the best overall season on the Celtics team this season. From the beginning of the season when he declared in these pages that he felt the entire team was committed to repeating last season's championship, Parish has played the best pivot this side of Akeem Olajuwon (who Parish predicted would be great the first time they met on the court). In November, playing without Coach K.C. Jones on hand or Bill Walton behind him, Parish stormed through a Midwest road trip, pulling down 18 rebounds at Chicago and 19 at Detroit. Both were in Celtic wins. Parish had 25 rebounds vs. the Kings one night in January and 13 times he had 15 rebounds or better.

In the playoffs, Parish's march continued: He had double figures in rebounding in every game but one, Game 2 against the Bucks in which he started anyway. In Milwaukee, he had back-to-back 16 rebound games and in his five-star performance in Game 5, he had 30 points with 16 more boards, but fell late in that game, severely injuring his left ankle. He was forced to miss Game 6 of that series. Bill Walton commented last season, "The most interesting thing for me coming to this team was recognizing how great a player Robert Parish was. So very underrated." Larry Bird thinks Parish is the ideal center in the league; an unselfish superstar. As the playoff season was in full swing, Parish recorded some of his thoughts for *Celtics Pride*.

April 20. Monday. We ended the regular season with a win over the Hawks, a game that had playoff atmosphere because the winner of that game would have homecourt advantage for all playoff games in the Eastern Conference. I try to keep to myself a lot as the season becomes more intense; the more media around, the more difficult it is to concentrate. I'll pick my spots as much as

Robert Parish: Playoff Journal of a Superstar



Robert Parish: Unparalleled Desire.

possible—talking some after practice but not usually after games.

We were able to get out of the gate against Atlanta with at least some poise. We didn't play well at first, but we stormed through them from the second quarter on.

April 22. Wednesday. It starts tomorrow night at the Garden against the Chicago Bulls. We handled them last season in three straight but I think they'll

be much tougher this year—more experienced and with Michael Jordan. We've had some good practices and I really respect the way K.C. has prepared us. There were several times this season we just weren't able to get ourselves going. You wait and you wait for things to fall into place and sometimes it gets frustrating. But I believe K.C.'s patience and his respect for our experience as a team was vital. I personally don't need extra demands placed on me at this time of the year. With past coaches, I'd sometimes be out of the Garden so fast after a game they might've thought I wasn't there at all.

I try to keep my mind on the playoffs during the time in the gym. When I'm through, it's gone. Plenty of time for pressure when the games are being played.

April 24. Friday. We won over the Bulls by a basket. It was much tougher than I thought it would be, coming down to a final shot by Michael Jordan to try and tie. He got inside and I saw him, switching off my man to double him. There isn't time to do anything but react in that situation and against a player like Michael Jordan, you're always watching him out of the corner of your eye. We bottled him up and he was forced to pass to Brad Sellers, a rookie. No place for a first-year player; he caught the ball while he was standing out of bounds. And we win.

April 25. Boston. A light practice in order to get ready for a Sunday afternoon game for Game 2. The second game is always the hardest one. The Bulls still have nothing to lose and anything they get against the defending champions is a feather in their cap.

April 27. Boston. Nothing's easy. We had them going, leading 70-59 at one point, but they caught up and took the lead early in the fourth quarter. Finally we rallied however—our starters got it going, especially Dennis Johnson. We ran off a 16-4 run to win it.

I hit a pressure shot in Game 1 and we were certainly under some real stress to win Game 2 down the stretch. Pressure is a manageable factor for me, most times. I have confidence in my teammates—the Captain, DJ, Kevin, Danny Ainge are all great players. That takes all the burden off one man. I'm helped personally when Bill Walton is playing, but I sincerely think Greg Kite has been a positive asset to our team, especially this year. He's a rock—and fearless. The time pressure becomes difficult is when you're banged up. When I can't go out there physically and get the job done... I hate to say it, but there's a tendency to retreat, even on a subconscious level. You always have to fight against that mentally. I've won some and I've lost some.

May 1. Boston. We swept Chicago—after winning 105-94 out there. We have some time off waiting for the winner of the Philadelphia and Milwaukee series to end. I passed the time having business meetings and getting out of the house and driving around. My wife and son have been in Los Angeles much of the year because Nancy has been working on a jazz album. I like that. The time off helps us because of the injury to Kevin—he needs all the time he can get with his ankle. For me, it can get pretty dangerous. You spend the time dreaming of summer vacation—somewhere on an island, under the hot sun, letting you and time drift...

May 9. Milwaukee. After winning the first two games in Boston, they win out here in a very tough overtime game. They seemed to have it won but DJ led a comeback and I was able to tie it and send it into overtime on a nice looping pass from Larry. This is looking to be a very tough series. Bill is out with a bad ankle and I don't know if he'll be back at all. And Jack Sikma is very challenging with all the rest of the things they can throw at you. We're still in the driver's seat however.

May 12. Boston. We go up 3-1 in games after winning a double overtime against them on their home floor. Kevin appears to be back and I'm hoping we can wrap this up tomorrow and get some time off. I feel very good about our chances. The biggest problem we had the other two seasons we tried to repeat was complacency. We fought that all year and we're pushing it hard right now.

May 14. Boston. On the way to a great ballgame and things are flowing like they should be, like fine jazz, a nice night, peaceful time for everybody. I had my game going last night—shooting, the driving game, hustling, but we just couldn't get ourselves together enough on a consistent basis all game. Did we take them too lightly, the game being in the Garden where we haven't ever lost? I don't know—sometimes it's a feeling.

Nothing compared to the feeling in my left ankle though. Sidney Moncrief drove the center late in the game and I guess we were all getting a little bit desperate at that point. I jumped up to stop him and when I came down, I knew the worst had happened. I was worn and continued, even crashing in for a 3-point play to put us ahead, 121-120. But we lost and it would have been nice to get some time off.

Nothing to say. I had it in a tub of water immediately after the game and told K.C. it would be hard to play in Game 6. But Sunday I'll play.

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K.C.s Corner

Playoff Basketball

Winning games in the playoffs is a result of two major factors. One is the type of game a team plays during the course of the postseason. The second factor relates to the commitment a team makes toward playing the game hard all season. I felt very good about our team as we played deep into the second round of the Eastern Conference playoffs. Our series against Chicago had the Bulls coming at us throughout—working double-teams against Larry, using Michael Jordan to great advantage outside and on his driving game, and turning Charles Oakley loose on both boards. We hung in against them nevertheless, winning three tough games including a game on the road without Kevin McHale.

Playoff basketball is played on a different level than the regular season contests. Games are played at a high level of efficiency and determination; you can play teams over and over and it's easier to make adjustments as you go along. Our first series was a typical first-round sequence. Having nothing to lose, the Bulls played aggressively. Feeling themselves vastly improved as a team going through the playoffs against us for the second consecutive year, the Bulls were a vastly improved team. I believe we did well to take them out in three games.

In the postseason, I think the key to winning is seventy-five percent defense and twenty-five percent offense. Defense is offense when it is played the right way. In fact, in the Milwaukee series, they very obviously wanted to run the ball against us and penetrate in the lane in their halfcourt offense. My assistant coach, Chris Ford, is constantly on his feet during these games, hollering at the guys to match up against a player like John Lucas when Lucas is pushing the ball up in the open floor. I regret saying that we didn't do well through the early phase of that series in this area. We needed to improve our game there and it was something we worked on the day after we were upset in Game 5 at the Garden, 129-124. That made the series 3-2 in our favor as the series shifted back to Milwaukee.

At that point, we were forced to play the 6th game without Robert Parish who has been a key figure on our team, not only this year, but for eight years. This is a season when Robert Parish has risen to the very top of this league. His offense has always been effective and he scored 30 points in

Game 5 of that Bucks series. But he works extremely hard on the defensive end—rebounding, individual and team defense, and shot-blocking. Last season during the playoff finals against Houston, Robert (and Dennis Johnson) were the players I went to specifically for input on how to play the Rockets after Houston had defeated us in Game 5 of that series. We won Game 6 on our home floor and won the championship. This is the type of contribution the Celtics receive from Robert Parish; he talks on the defensive end continually, a vital matter when you face sophisticated offenses. At a point in time when Parish was beginning to receive the recognition as the likely Hall of Fame candidate he is, he went down in the late stages of Game 5 with a turned ankle, which overnight turned into a rather severe sprain. It was a night turned into a nightmare: we lost the game we should have won and at 11:40 p.m. I found out Chief wouldn't be able to make the trip to Milwaukee.

Injuries plagued us all year and they continued to be a factor, and an important one, as the playoffs proceeded. I've been in the game for thirty-five years and it's the worst situation I've ever been around. We were able to get Kevin McHale back (outstanding work by Ray Melchiorre, our trainer, and the man himself) and his determination out there, as well as his production helped us immensely. But Danny Ainge suffered a concussion in Game 3 of the Bucks series. Bill Walton went out with a hairline fracture on his right foot. Parish severely sprained his ankle. The Green Team didn't escape: Darren Daye had a strained back, Fred Roberts a twisted ankle. It affects how you play the game: what's important is playing each game, one at a time, with who you have available. As the coach, you must see, are they getting the job done? We planned to bring Greg Kite off the bench to minimize foul problems. For the record, I don't think Greg Kite is as prone to fouls as he is judged by the officials. I'll let the subject of officials rest at that, however. Another way the game is played in the postseason: regardless of position, players must do the fundamentals and contribute to the team game. Against Milwaukee, we probably concentrated too much early on at team defense and let our individual work slip some. If you're working at it, you know when to switch whether it is "right" by the book or not. A center like Parish was extremely effective swarming a guard like Lucas in certain situations. Until he sprained his ankle; but even then, Robert carried us a long way in the final minutes while hurting.

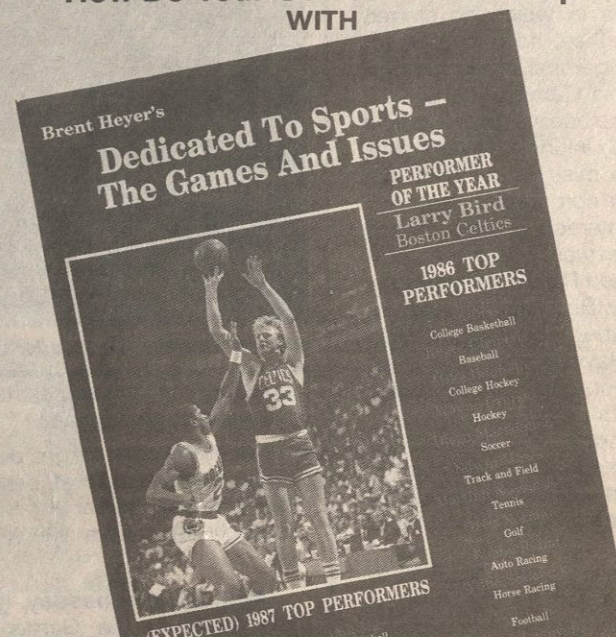
Playoff basketball. We need to be a stronger starting team. When you fall behind early, you expend plenty of energy catching up. We were hurt by this in Game 3 and Game 5 against the Bucks. The

postseason game. A contest of team wills. After the adjustments have been made and the game plan agreed upon (with player input), you must work at it for 48 minutes with commitment. Other factors, like finding the player with the hot hand offensively and being certain you get the ball to the player you want in the final seconds when the game is on the line. We were working hard as the end of the season neared. It seemed easy to become discouraged with the injuries happening to us and playing against a Milwaukee team that's never played better. But we still had our sights set on The Finals.

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By Tony Cooper

Golden State Warrior guard Eric "Sleepy" Floyd was wide awake in Game 4 of his team's second-round playoff series against the Los Angeles Lakers.

In what turned out to be the only game the Warriors would win in the series, Floyd scored 51 points—29 of them coming in the fourth quarter. That established an NBA standard for most points in a quarter of postseason contest.

Floyd's outburst topped the mark of 25 set by Detroit's Isiah Thomas just two days earlier against the Atlanta Hawks.

"That was one of the all-time shows I've ever seen—probably the greatest individual performances I've seen in playoff basketball", Warrior coach George Karl said of Floyd's performance, "I mean, he must have had two or three steals in that quarter and he assisted on every other basket he didn't make himself."

"You didn't see much coaching out there. The players knew to get out of his way and let him play. All you saw in the fourth quarter was a lot of heart and guts."

And plenty of Sleepy. Floyd made 12 of 13 field goal attempts in the quarter. It should be pointed out that most of Floyd's baskets came on drives toward the basket—good shots.

"Sleepy was out of this world in the fourth period", Laker coach Pat Riley said. "He let our guys know he's a great player. He finishes off his drives better than anyone else his size in the league."

What does the low-key Floyd have to say about his antics? "It's quite an accomplishment," Floyd said. "I can't deny that. I do feel good right now."

That most of Floyd's points came at the expense of Michael Cooper, named NBA Defensive Player of the Year and long regarded as one of the league's foremost checkers added to Floyd's satisfaction. Floyd and Cooper spent much of the series yapping at one another, and there were several shoving matches between Laker and Warrior players during the series. In fact, the Laker players were begrudging in doling out praise for Floyd.

"A lot of players have done it," said guard Byron Scott, who infuriated the Warriors with what they considered showboating.

Of course, no one had ever done it. "I've seen that kind of game before," Cooper said. "Magic, when he scored 42 (in a playoff game against the 76ers), Gervin, Dr. J..."

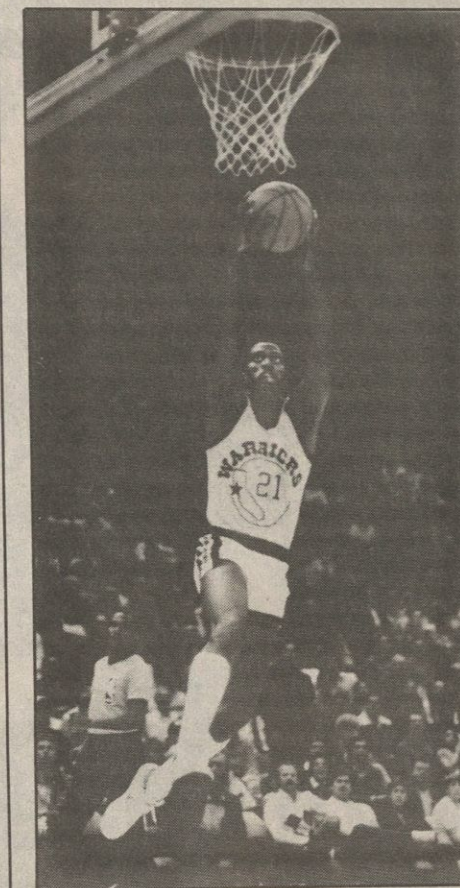
Leave it to Magic Johnson to set the record straight, pardon the pun.

"He felt it," Johnson said, "and no matter who jumped out on him he was going to make it, whether it was Kareem, Magic, Cooper... whoever."

Finally, Cooper came around to give Floyd his due. "Yeah, we got our heads bitten off," Cooper said. "You could say that. But I don't think we were barking at them. We were just trying to fire up each other. He had every phase of his game going, three-pointers, drives, everything. There was one time I was on him and he shot it and it looked like it was going to bounce over the rim, and it went in."

And what about the Laker barking? The Showtime Boys certainly don't lack for confidence, a trait which surfaced many times against the Warriors. At one point

Supreme Court



"Sleepy" Floyd: Woke up Against L.A.

during Game 4, Laker players staged a high-five celebration at the foul line after Scott made a basket and was about to try to complete a three-point play. Actions like this caused many altercations in the series, won by the Lakers in five games. "Their arrogance never surprises me," Karl said.

Said Riley: "I had one message for our team and that was: If you keep barking so much you'll get your head bitten off. And that's what happened. Once he got started, he was impossible to stop."

But, in the end, the Lakers were able to stop the Warriors, Sleepy or no Sleepy.

EMPLOYMENT DEPT. Maverick boss Dick Motta says he's not interested in becoming general manager of the New York Knicks, so it looks like he'll stay in Dallas. You'd have to wonder why Motta would want to leave the Mavs, who have a bright future despite their playoff demise to come to the Knicks, who have been a mess for years.

Ex-Suns coach John MacLeod has been interviewing for the Los Angeles Clipper job. The vacancy was created when former Celtic player Don Chaney was fired at the end of the year. Another former Sun head, Cotton Fitzsimmons, resurfaced as Phoenix's director of player personnel. Fitzsimmons coached the Suns from 1970-72. John Wetzel, who played under Fitzsimmons, is the Sun's new coach.

Former Knick coach Hubie Brown was said to be the Clips first choice, but he dropped himself out of contention.

Meanwhile, rumors are flying all over the place about another ex-green and white, Don Nelson, currently coach of the Milwaukee Bucks. He is said to be headed for Golden State where he will become Warrior general manager. Currently, Karl makes the final decision on all basketball

related matters for the team. New York is also allegedly interested in gaining Nelson's services in some form.

TRIBUTE TO A COACH: Phil Woolpert, the former University of San Francisco coach who played a large hand in the development of ex-Celtic greats Bill Russell and K.C. Jones, died at age 71 recently. Woolpert succumbed to lung cancer.

Both Russell and Jones played under Woolpert at USF, which won national titles in 1955 and 1956.

"I can honestly say that if it were any other man, I wouldn't be here," said Russell, recently named coach of the Sacramento Kings. "He's one of the best friends I've ever had in my life, and that has absolutely nothing to do with USF basketball. Phil gave me a scholarship and a chance. I wish I knew what he saw in me..."

MORE LAKERS: Cooper has become a three-point threat, something he wasn't a few years ago. As a matter of fact, the Lakers were the worst three-point shooting team in the league just five years ago.

"I didn't believe in it," Riley said. "I thought we didn't need it."

That's not true any more. Cooper's marksmanship from afar combined with his defensive prowess have made him one of the league's most esteemed players.

"It really enhanced his game," Riley said. "One time I had to beat him over the head to get him to take an open shot, now I have to beat him over the head to calm him down."

Magic Johnson has noticed a change in the Lakers over the past couple of seasons.

"It's a different team," Johnson said. "It's not on Kareem's shoulders to win games for us any more. He's still a big factor, but not the factor. It used to be that when Kareem sat down, we struggled. There was so much designed around him we simply couldn't function without him in the game. Now when he sits down, we actually run better and we're more comfortable as a team, in that kind of game."

CELTIC PLAYOFF QUOTEBOOK: Bill Walton, after the Celtics nudged past the Bucks in Game 2: "This team has won so much, we know how to win. If it wasn't tough, it wouldn't be any fun." Gimpylegged Kevin McHale called K.C. Jones before the game to let him know he wanted to play. "I could tell that if I didn't let him play, I'd be in trouble," Jones said... McHale was thrilled by the Celtics double-overtime win in Game 4: "It was a classic," he said. "It was fun. I'll look back at this one and smile." Added Nelson: "This was one of those very special games that comes around every once in a while..." Reserve Fred Roberts had a pair of key free throws to help Boston in Game 2. "It's a thrill," Roberts said. "I tried to be cool about it, but I was happy."

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Kodak/Celtics Pride Photo Contest Winners



1st: Joseph O'Brien



2nd: Linda Sheetz Halley



3rd: Thomas J. Carey

Pictured above are this month's winners in the **KODAK/CELTICS PRIDE** photo contest. The first place photograph was submitted to us by Joseph O'Brien of Bloomfield, CT. Mr. O'Brien has won the opportunity to sit courtside and photograph the World Champions in action. In addition, Mr. O'Brien has also won the following exciting prizes:

* A Kodak K-12 35mm camera and Kodak film.

* A personally autographed color photo enlargement of his favorite Celtics player.

* "Season of the Shooting Stars," the 1985-86 Boston Celtics video yearbook.

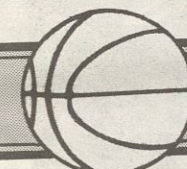
* A complimentary year-long subscription to **CELTICS PRIDE**.

Second and third place finishers in this month's contest

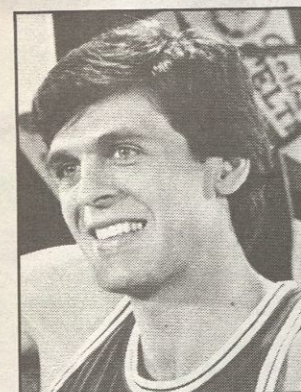
are Linda Sheetz Halley of East Falmouth, MA and Thomas Carey of Westfield, MA, respectively.

Both Ms. Halley and Mr. Carey will receive the video yearbook, the personally autographed poster, the subscription to **CELTICS PRIDE** and a roll of Kodak 35mm film.

Congratulations to all winners!!



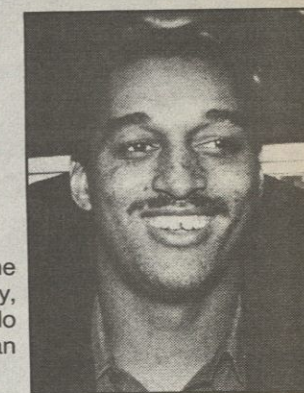
Roundball Spoken Here



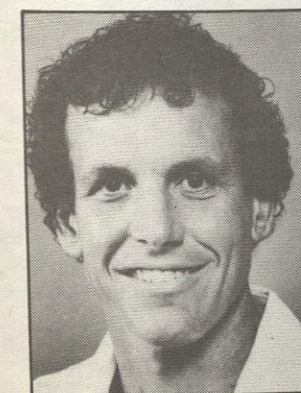
Kevin McHale

Kevin McHale commented afterward on his altercation with an abusive fan in the stands at the Mecca in the waning moments of Game 3 of the Celtics-Bucks playoff series: "I shouldn't have done it. (But) people were throwing stuff. It was like a zoo back there. In hockey, that would have been a commonplace thing."

Dennis Johnson on Robert Parish's 22-point, 12-rebound performance in Game 1 of the playoff series against the Bucks: "Some people get caught up in Larry, Larry, Larry. And Larry is a great, great player. When other people on this team do things, they act surprised. I'm not surprised at anything Robert does. And he can play better."



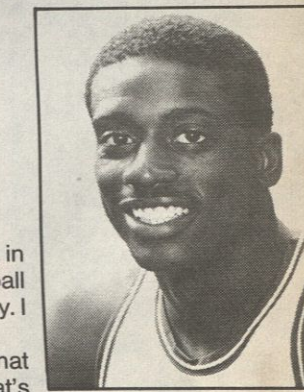
Dennis Johnson



Doug Collins

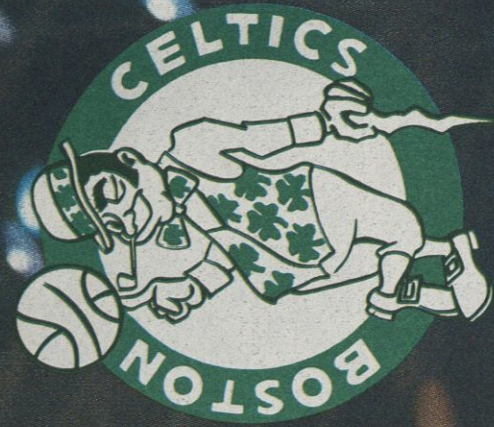
Doug Collins, Coach of the Bulls, talks about the talent of Larry Bird: "I don't know if there's ever been a player with his knowledge of the game. You can't appreciate him until you coach. When you're playing against him, the game goes too fast. Watching him on film, he is a clinic on the way to play basketball."

Sam Vincent, Celtics guard, on his altercation with Bucks guard, John Lucas, in the first game of the Celtics-Bucks playoff series: "I thought I knocked the ball away (from Lucas). He thought I fouled him and he had a couple of things to say. I just wanted him to know I wasn't going to take it. "Then I got the technical foul. But I think I established something to Lucas, that he can't just come down and push me around. If I get another one next time, that's fine."

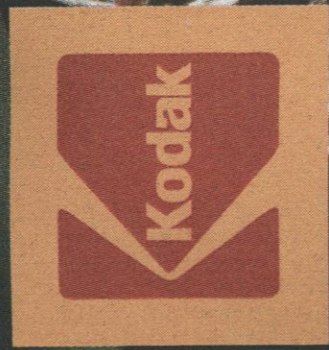


Sam Vincent





Bill Walton



Tape

Dick Vitale Analyzes This Year's Draft

Straight From "The Mouth"

It is generally acknowledged among basketball people that three of the top college basketball experts in the sport do work at the three major networks, a tribute in this regard to the networks, who are susceptible to selecting style over substance many times. The three are, of course, Dick Vitale (ABC & ESPN), Billy

Packer (CBS), and Al McGuire (NBC). Of these, Vitale is surely the most discussed: verbose, animated, opinionated. Vitale is all of these, but he is the best. He lives for the game as it's played on all levels and in all seasons. Vitale researches the game thoroughly; not only the big time schools, but the out of the way places and high

school players, too. With the draft less than a month away, Vitale critiqued some of the best players who are eligible for selection. These included seniors and some of the players who entered the selections as hardships. Following Dick's capsule comments, several members of the press, including Bob

Schron of this publication, entered their choices to teams as they hypothetically would choose in the first round. Vitale's analyses begin with his evaluation of the consensus first choice in the whole draft, David Robinson of Navy. **DAVID ROBINSON**, Navy: "Quick, mobile, excellent skills, great intelligence. He hasn't been pushed every night, but he should be a franchise player."

DENNIS HOPSON, 6-8, Ohio State: "He can swing between forward and guard, but he could potentially be a great big guard in this league. He moves real well, can shoot it and can post up. Has the real potential to be this draft's Chuck Person."

REGGIE WILLIAMS, 6-7, Georgetown: "A smooth player, wiry, but tough, with great all-around skills. An excellent shooter."

DEREK McKEY, 6-8, Alabama: "Tall, but I see him basically with the skills of a small forward. Great agility and quickness, his best moments won't come as a point forward. I see him more threatening as a player on the wing."

ARMON GILLIAM, 6-8, UNLV: "Great hands, great power and definitely a bonafide power forward, one of the players sure of his position in this draft. He can score a lot of points on the baseline. Has the advantage of playing in a pro type offense in school."

HORACE GRANT, 6-10, Clemson: "Inside player who can score well there and also is a better than adequate shot-blocker. Has athletic ability and potential for developing his instincts for the game."

CHRIS WELP, 7-0, Washington: "Great touch and the bonafide size of a seven-footer. I think he'll make a nice backup center in the league. He's a perimeter shooter, but there are a number of those in the league right now. Has the ability to play some power forward as well. Limited defensively."

KENNY SMITH, 6-2, North Carolina: "Ultra quick and I think he'll be the best point guard coming out of the draft. A player who will be helped by playing on an NBA team as opposed to playing in the controlled offense at North Carolina. I thought that concept overwhelmed him at times."

SCOTT PIPPIN, 6-7, Central Arkansas State: "6-7 athlete who can play the two guard and swing to the small forward. I think he has the same ability to surprise in this league as Dennis Rodman, now of Detroit did, this season."

STEVE ALFORD, 6-2, Indiana: "I think Steve Alford will make an excellent 3rd guard in this league. He has great mental intensity and he is a winner. He can handle the ball with confidence and he has great range with his outside shot. I think he would look great in Celtic green."

DALLAS COMEGYS, 6-8, Depaul: "He has always had the physical abilities to be a fine player, but the question with him has been his intensity. How bad does he want to excel?"

BRUCE DALRYMPLE, 6-5, Georgia Tech: "Physically tough force; his offensive ability hasn't seemed to be outstanding yet, but he's tenacious and has played for a fine program. I like him as a player."

MIKE FARMER, 6-4, Alabama: "Excel-



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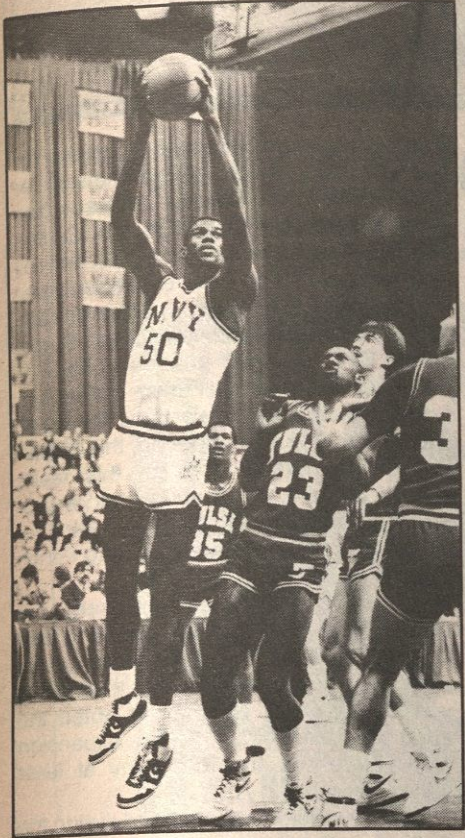


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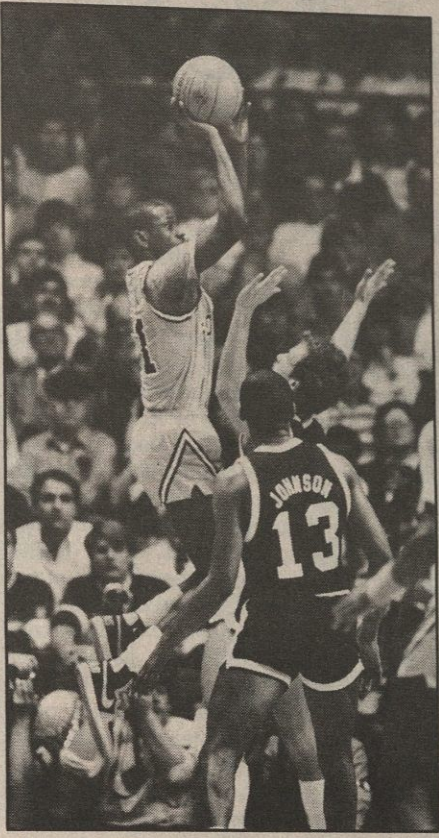
David Robinson: Wearing Spurs?

lent range as a shooter. Mentally, he is always into the game. I think he's OK physically. A hard-nosed competitor."

REGGIE LEWIS, 6-7, Northeastern: "I think Reggie Lewis is a great pro prospect, with the potential to be a big time scorer. Very impressive physically with the ability to swing from the 2-guard to forward."

REGGIE MILLER, 6-8, UCLA: "I think Miller can play, but the big question with him is his court attitude, which in the past has been reported to be suspect. It must be tamed. But I think he's a scorer."

BRAD LOHAUS, 7-0, Iowa: "A big player who is an excellent passer. His shooting is OK, 12-foot and in; his size is an intimidating factor."



Reggie Williams: Smooth and Tough

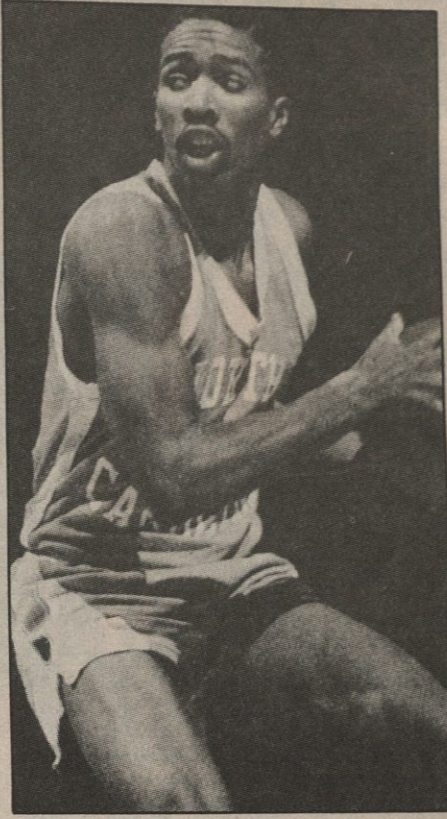
MARK JACKSON, 6-3, St. John's: "A strong player with the ball and has the ability to make the play. He has the attitude of 'think pass', a very unselfish player who is reminiscent, to me, of Clyde Frazier."

FRED BANKS, 6-3, UNLV: "He can shoot it. The question about him is his ability to play the point guard."

TERRY CONER, 6-3, Alabama: "Good point guard, a typical player who has abilities, but with limitations. His question mark is shooting."

GREG ANDERSON, 6-9, Houston: "Good skills, an athlete, but with defensive limitations."

NATE BLACKWELL, 6-4, Temple:



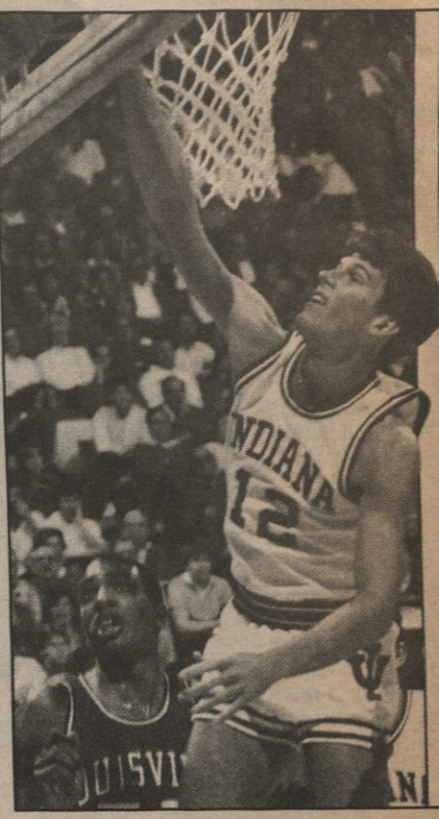
Kenny Smith: Ultra Quick

Good size, a point guard, plays well within a disciplined system. His question mark is his consistency as a shooter.

TYRONE BOGUES, 6-3, Wake Forest: "I like him. He could be an important specialist in the league, ala Spud Webb. He would be havoc against opponents trying to slow games down and run them to their tempo."

TOMMY AMAKER, 6-2, Duke: "Will be an ideal backup point guard. Adequate size, very tough defense on the ball."

TIM MCCALLISTER, 6-3, Oklahoma: "Scorer, but at 6-3, his size is a question mark. If he's at the point, will he be able to penetrate?"



Steve Alford: Excellent 3rd Guard?

DOUG ALTENBERGER, 6-7, Illinois: "Tough, hard-nosed kid with the ability to shoot well. Been bothered with knee problems and this has to be a consideration for any team drafting him."

BILLY DONOVAN, 6-0, Providence: "Showed in the tournament that he can be an effective role player for a team. Ability and scoring."

"I think the draft has some quality depth in it," Vitale concluded. "The difference between this draft and others is that there aren't as many impact players in this draft. Robinson and Hopson are outstanding, but after that, the best players are the ones who'll get you some quality minutes."

Fearless Prognosticators Call the Draft

TEAMS	Willie Maye WILD Radio	Frank Dell'Apa Boston Herald	Ted Sarandis Freelance Sportscaster	Jeff Hardi Washington Times	Bob Schron Assoc. Editor, Celtics Pride
1. San Antonio	Robinson, Navy	Robinson, Navy	Robinson, Navy	Robinson, Navy	Robinson, Navy
2. Phoenix	Hopson, OSU	Gilliam, UNLV	Polynice, Virginia	R. Williams, G-town	R. Williams, G-town
3. New Jersey	Williams, Georgetown	Williams, Georgetown	R. Williams, G-town	Hopson, Ohio St.	Hopson, Ohio St.
4. L.A. Clippers	Polynice, Virginia	McKey, Alabama	McKey, Alabama	McKey, Alabama	McKey, Alabama
5. Seattle	Gilliam, UNLV	Hopson, OSU	Gilliam, UNLV	Gilliam, UNLV	Grant, Clemson
6. Sacramento	Miller, UCLA	Grant, Clemson	Grant, Clemson	Polynice, Virginia	Gilliam, UNLV
7. Cleveland	Smith, North Carolina	Smith, North Carolina	Jackson, St. John's	K. Smith, UNC	Jackson, St. John's
8. Chicago	Welp, Washington	Polynice, Virginia	Hopson, Ohio State	Comegys, DePaul	Welp, Washington
9. Seattle	Comegys, Depaul	Welp, WA	Welp, Washington	R. Miller, UCLA	K. Johnson, California
10. Chicago	Eckles, New Orleans	Lewis, Northeastern	K. Smith, N. C.	Welp, Washington	R. Lewis, Northeastern
11. Indiana	Lewis, Northeastern	Alford, IU	Comegys, DePaul	Alford, Indiana	Alford, Indiana
12. Washington	Anderson, Houston	Miller, UCLA	K. Johnson, Calif.	Grant, Clemson	Polynice, Virginia
13. L.A. Clippers	Lohaus, Iowa	Lohaus, Iowa	R. Miller, UCLA	Norman, Illinois	Miller, UCLA
14. Warriors	Wilson, LSU	Comegys, Depaul	Norman, Illinois	R. Lewis, Northeastern	F. Banks, UNLV
15. Utah	Alford, IU	Anderson, Houston	McCallister, OK	McCallister, OK	K. Smith, UNC
16. Philadelphia	D. Lewis, MD	Norman, Illinois	K. Johnson, W. KY	F. Banks, UNLV	G. Anderson, Houston
17. Portland	McKey, Alabama	Holcomb, TCU	R. Lewis, Northeastern	Lohaus, Iowa	Dalrymple, Georgia T.
18. New York	Dalrymple, Georgia T.	Jackson, St. John's	Tony White, Tenn.	N. Wilson, LSU	Blackwell, Temple
19. Clippers	Blackwell, Temple	Bailey, Wagner	Dalrymple, Georgia T.	Dalrymple, Georgia T.	R. Moore, W. VA State
20. Dallas	McCallister, OK	Altenberger, Illinois	Wolf, UNC	Amaker, Duke	Winslow, Houston
21. Atlanta	Grant, Clemson	Banks, UNLV	Coleman, Kansas St.	Wolf, UNC	Comegys, DePaul
22. Boston	Pierre, W. Virginia	McCallister, OK	Moore, W. Va. State	D. Kennedy, Oklahoma	McCallister, Oklahoma
23. San Antonio	Wolf, UNC	Bogues, Wake Forest	Blackwell, Temple		





M.L. Carr

A Memorable Series

An incredible season. I worked on the telecast of Game 5 of the Celtics-Bucks semi-final series for SportsChannel, a loss by the Celtics that sent the series back to Milwaukee. The regular season, characterized by adversity, proceeded right into the playoffs. The Celtics needed rest but instead, it was the Pistons (who eliminated Atlanta) that had the time off.

I think as fans we need to step back and

see the forest from the trees. I mentioned in this space two issues ago that the Celtics team needed a standing ovation on the final day of the regular season against the Hawks. Likewise, at this time of the year, the fans need to get solidly behind the Celtics. No negative vibes; I can see some press begin to criticize the amount of time the starters have had to play this season. But I still think Boston can win this season. But they need

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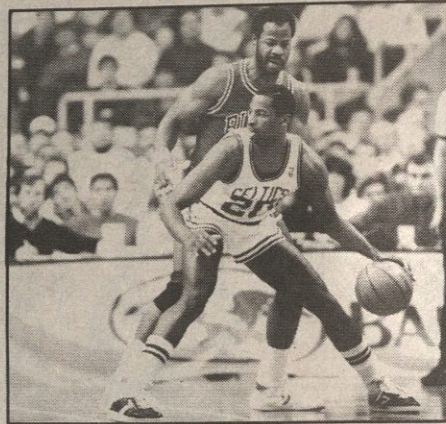


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support. When the Celtics rallied to briefly reclaim the lead in Game 5, 121-120, the Garden gave the team a prolonged standing ovation. I think this is the type of reception the team really needed, a perfect sendoff for them as they went to Milwaukee for Game 6. It's the type of support they'll need for the entire game for the remainder of the season.

I think we were seeing a classic series between the Celtics and the Bucks. Both teams playing very well; both teams showing a tremendous amount of character. I compared the Bucks' performance in Game 5 to something we did in Boston in 1983-84. Jack Sikma and Sidney Moncrief insisted to the press that the Bucks would find a way to win Game 5 in Boston. They didn't want to have their Coach, Don Nelson, to have lost possibly his final game in Milwaukee. This team dedication was the same respect we gave to K.C. Jones when we first were able to get the coaching staff to the midseason All-Star Game. Then we won the title, motivated in large part for what we wanted to accomplish for K.C.

The two teams struggled mightily, playing very well. Through five games they were separated by few points, including an overtime game in the third game and a double OT in Game 4. The latter game was a memorable ballgame. Neither team was able to establish dominance and both teams fought all game playing fundamentally sound basketball throughout. One point decided it and neither team deserved to lose. Robert Parish's injury late in Game 5 placed Boston in a sort of one-down position heading back to Milwaukee but I wasn't sure that meant the Celtics would lose. You cannot predict these games with absolute certainty; for example, Boston came out in Game 5 in Boston playing soft defense. This allowed Milwaukee to execute their offense and work their driving game extremely well. The Celtics were much, much better later in that contest, showing the type of intensity needed to win. But in this series, that concentration was needed all game long. The Celtics had that commitment in Milwaukee in Games 3 & 4; perhaps having to compensate for Robert's absence would have produced the extra incentive they needed.

I believe that the Bucks series was the toughest Boston would play. If there had

to be an extra game, or even two, it's because the Bucks happened to be in this level of the playoff bracket. I think either team will defeat Detroit, although I respect what the Pistons have done this year. The Bucks are a sound, veteran ballclub and they have an excellent coach in Don Nelson. It was one of the intriguing facets of the series: two great coaches, Nelson and Jones matching strategy. I don't agree with all the things Don Nelson does, but he knows how to motivate players. He played under the greatest motivator of all—Red Auerbach, so his skills in this area are not surprising. Nelson, you'll notice, has used his possible departure from Milwaukee to excellent advantage. Three years ago, his labeling of Danny Ainge as "a cheap shot artist" was also perfectly timed (coming as the Bucks returned home after beating the Celtics in the first two games of the series in Boston).

Nelson is so creative with his defensive strategies, at making offenses constantly have to make adjustments.

Jones meanwhile is a superb defensive coach in his own right. His team uses the switching tactics and team defense consistently better than any other team in the league. K.C. understands team basketball, and the pace of the game so thoroughly. In his best games, he orchestrates it with complete control. I think this spreads over to his team on the floor; if the game is played at your tempo, you'll make the right decisions for your team. They then can be their own coaches on the floor.

I believe the winner of this series will play in the finals.

How would a Boston Celtics team win without Robert Parish? I would not talk to K.C. during that series: he is the coach of the team and that's the man's job. I'm a writer. But the Celtics could work the ball inside anyway, to an ace like Kevin McHale; Darren Daye and Fred Roberts could play strong supportive roles. And Larry Bird and Dennis Johnson are professionals, particularly at this time of the year. They understand the pressure of the playoffs and they deal with it. A possible way to go is playing a small lineup against Milwaukee: Ainge and Sichting at the guards with DJ at the small forward (Dennis is an excellent rebounder). But I believe in K.C., as people in the Celtics family do. I think he is able to fit the pieces of the puzzle together very well in the playoffs.

Winning against Milwaukee, a recipe: They play a patient game when they don't run. You want to keep John Lucas out of the middle and direct him to the sidelines. You want to get the ball inside against them because I think this is an area of strength for Boston against a weakness of Milwaukee. Boston should run selectively and when the break isn't there, pound it inside.

I think at this point in the year, it is dangerous to look ahead. The maxim of playing them one at a time is never truer than now. But as the series, a classic series, headed back to Milwaukee, it was extremely important for the Celtics to regain championship momentum. I looked at the first 5:00 of Game 6 as an indicator of how the Celtics were playing at this time of the year, when everything matters. I was looking to see if they were able to come out with killer instinct. Whether they won that sixth game or not, I thought it was important for them to send the message that they were playing for keeps right now.

By the Numbers

The playoffs in the Eastern Conference suddenly became a matter of defense for the Celtics. In sweeping the opening round against the Bulls, Boston seemed to have their tempo their way, limiting the Bulls to scores of 104, 96, and 104. The games were played at a controlled pace.

However, after winning Game One of the Bucks series, 111-98, behind Larry Bird's 40 points and defense which limited the Bucks team shooting to .406, events changed. The Bucks ran off scores of 124, 126 and 137 in OT contests, and in back-to-back victories to even the series and send the set to a 7th and deciding game, the Bucks won with 129 and 121 scoring totals. Not coincidentally, they succeeded with an uptempo attack.

Danny Ainge. Ainge's 14 3-point field goals through six games in the Bucks series were a weapon, particularly in Games 4 and 6, when he rallied the team in both games. Dislocated a finger in Game 6. Thirty points on 11-14 shooting from the field in Game 2; 18 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists in Game 4. Twenty-two points, 5 assists in Game 6.

Larry Bird. According to Billy Cunningham, CBS commentator and former Sixer Coach, Bird looks very tired. He felt as the Bucks series progressed, the Midwest foe used the strategy of playing Pressey on Bird when Larry had the ball, with the strategem of forcing Bird on Moncrief defensively. Nevertheless, 40 points, 11 rebounds, 7 assists in Game 1; after a quiet Game 3 at the Mecca, Bird

exploded in the 2-OT crucial win: 42 points, 8 assists, 7 rebounds, 2 blocked shots. Twenty-six points, 12 assists in Game 5 and without Parish and concentrating more on rebounding, Bird had 22 points, 14 rebounds.

Darren Daye. Daye served two important functions in the C's team scheme as the Bucks series unfolded. In less spotlight, he began shadowing Sixth Man Award winner Ricky Pierce to good advantage, particularly in short minutes in Game 6, before the small Bucks lineup went faster than the upcoming Indianapolis 500. But Daye's vital role in the Game 4 2-OT win will be a gem for C's fans forever; coming off the bench in the second OT and outfighting fatiguing Bucks players, Daye scored 6 points, had two rebounds, 4-4 FTs. Contributed 4 points in Game 5 in five minutes and had 6 at the Mecca in eleven minutes with one rebound.

Conner Henry. Minutes have been limited since the start of the playoffs. Entered the fifth game loss at the Garden in the final seconds, as the Celtics hoped to hit a three-point shot. His over the head hook from that distance failed. He drew a foul, but the sixty percent free throw shooter missed both free throws. The form is there but the accuracy isn't yet.

Dennis Johnson. Through the first two series, the Celtics best player. Had 21 points, 10 assists in 2nd game win, including big shots in 4th quarter. After controversy in Game 3 gametied related to Phoenix (ahem) grand jury, Johnson

still was brilliant, with 32 points, 14 assists. Nineteen points, 12 assists in Game 4 win in Milwaukee, followed by 19-point effort back at the Garden in Game 5. As the C's attempted to clinch in Game 6 in Milwaukee without the injured Parish, Johnson again was outstanding, scoring 25 with 14 assists.

Greg Kite. Had strongest moments in the playoffs, possibly playing the best he ever has as a Celtic. Beginning in Game 3 of the Milwaukee series Walton was injured and Kite became again the first backup player off the bench. Two points, 4 rebounds in 13 minutes in Game 3; 4 defensive rebounds in only six minutes in Game 5, ironically, some of his best minutes in a (1) defeat at the Garden and (2) in the game when Parish suffered his injured ankle. Also blocked a shot in that game. Started Game 6 and played 17 minutes, encountering foul trouble.

Kevin McHale. McHale missed the first game of the Bucks series with a series of ankle and foot problems. But he came off the bench in Games 2 and 3, and despite reinjuring the ankle in the clinching try at the Mecca in Game 6, he continued to play on. Outstanding as usual, although observers of his game from courtside on a continuous basis think his defense is sorely suspect because of the pain. Twenty-five points in 38 minutes in OT loss in Game 3, followed by incredible 56 minutes (As Bird) in the 2-OT win in Game 4. McHale scored 34 with 11 rebounds and 4 blocked shots; also had steal and collaborated with Bird to stop Lucas's final second shot. Twenty-seven points,

11 rebounds and fatigue in Game 5; 21 points, 16 rebounds and reinjury of ankle in Game 6.

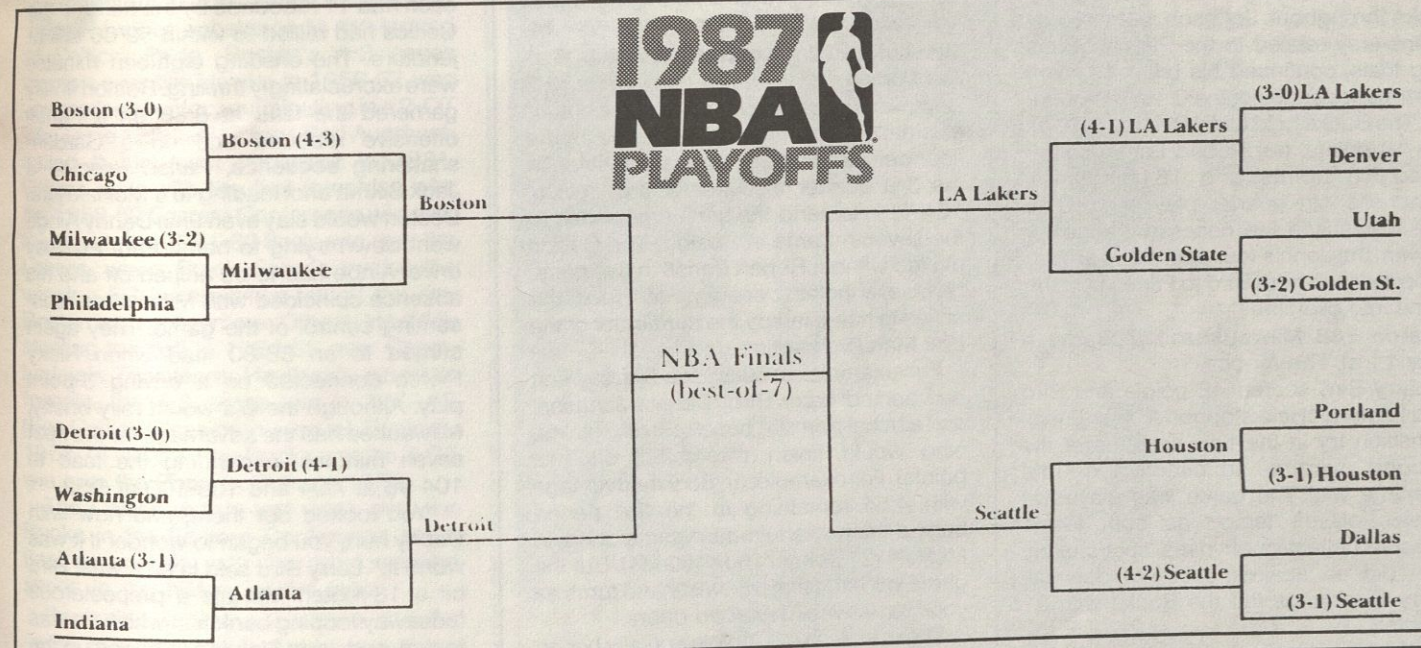
Robert Parish. Run out of superlatives to describe Parish, who possibly topped off his playoff performances in Game 5 of the Bucks series, when he twisted his ankle. Twenty-two points, 12 rebounds in Game 1, 24 points and crucial jumper in Game 2; in Milwaukee, turned in back-to-back 16 rebound games to set up a pair of clinching attempts by the C's as they played Games 4 & 6 in Boston and Milwaukee respectively. Parish scored 30 in Game 5, endlessly running the floor as the Celtics battled from behind. After injuring his ankle, still crashed through to score an offensive rebound basket and convert a free throw to give the C's a momentary lead. But the Bucks won and Parish was forced to miss Game 6.

Fred Roberts. In his first playoff action as a Celtic, acquitting himself well generally. Started opening two games, scoring 13 with 5 rebounds and 3 assists in opener and 9 with 2 rebounds and an assist in second game. In 3rd game, also a start, had 4 points in 14 minutes and after McHale returned to starting lineup, he returned to the bench. Best moments were in Game 6 when he contributed several productive plays as the Celtics went out to a long lead in the 3rd period; 13 points, 4 offensive rebounds, 6-12 FGs in 25 minutes.

Jerry Sichting. Played tenaciously in the Bucks series but he was hurt by irregular rhythm of the substitution pattern, due to the shredded battlefield which was the Celtics bench in the playoffs. Scoreless in opening two games at the Garden; 2-4 and 1-1 from the field as the C's split at the Mecca. Played 14 and 10 minutes respectively. Scored 4 points in 15 minutes with 2 assists in Game 5 and grabbed 2 rebounds and scored 2 points in Game 6 defeat.

Sam Vincent. Vincent received some of his cherished playing time in the Bucks series. Most intense moments were during 4th quarter altercation with Bucks' feisty Lucas in Game 1. Eight minutes, 3 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist in that opener. Played one and two minutes in Games 3 and 4 at the Mecca (K.C. sent him as decoy in 1st OT in Game 4), for possible 3-point FG attempt. Played two minutes in Game 6 clinch attempt.

Bill Walton. Walton's season was typified in Game 2 of the Bucks series. In Game 1, Walton contributed 20 minutes, scoring 4 with 7 rebounds and a surge of defensive intensity which carried the team in the second quarter of that contest. In the locker room afterward, he was as enthusiastic as he has been all season. But the following night—playing in the back-to-back situation he had always been extremely wary of—Walton injured his right foot, what x-rays disclosed as a hairline fracture of the navicular bone. Walton was reluctant to play after that—with his history, would you?—and was still questionable for the remainder of the post season as the Celtics prepared to play Game 7 of the Milwaukee series.



BOSTON CELTICS 1987 PLAYOFF STATISTICS																																		
THROUGH MAY 17 (7-3)			-FIELD GOALS-					3-PT FG					-FREE THROWS-					--REBOUNDS--																
PLAYER	G	GS	MIN	FG	FGA	PCT	FG	FGA	PCT	FT	FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT	AST	PF	DQ	STL	TO	BLK	PTS	AVG	HI										
BIRD	10	10	46.5	93	191	487	7	19	36	105	895	21	77	98	79	29	1	16	31	7	267	26.7	42											
MCHALE	8	6	33.5	76	137	555	0	0	34	46	739	28	52	90	12	34	2	18	13	186	23.3	34												
JOHNSON	10	10	44.4	79	158	500	2	12	53	60	883	4	38	42	92	37	0	9	21	213	21.3	32												
PARISH	9	9	34.4	76	137	555	0	0	32	38	842	35	73	108	16	38	2	7	20	23	184	20.4	30											
AINGE	10	10	39.5	63	124	508	16	30	20	25	800	9	19	28	50	33	0	14	19	0	162	16.2	30											
ROBERTS	9	4	16.2	17	41	415	0	0	15	20	750	10	7	17	7	27	0	3	7	3	49	5.4	13											
WALTON	6	0	7.7	9	20	450	0	0	5	12	417	8	18	26	9	14	0	3	3	3	23	3.8	8											
DAYE	10	0	6.5	8	17	471	0	0	13	14	429	4	5	9	2	6	0	3	8	2	29	2.9	6											
SICHTING	10	0	12.2	12	28	429	0	0	4	4	1,000	1	6	7	12	18	0	0	1	0	3	0.5	3											
VINCENT	6	0	16	1	4	250	0	0	1	2	500	0	1	1	3	3	0	0	1	0	3	0.4	2											
KITE	7	1	4.5	1	3	333	0	0	1	2	500	2	11	13	2	10	0	0	0	0	1	0.2	1											
HENRY	5	0	5	0	0	---	0	0	1	4	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1											
CELTICS	10		247.5	435	860	506	25	61	273	332	822	122	307	429	283	249	5	59	140	56	1168	116.8	138											
OPPONENTS	10		247.5	417	897	465	24	68	284	343	828	122	261	383	245	282	8	82	115	43	1142	114.2	137											

Game by Game

Boston 111 Milwaukee 98 Semi-Final Playoff Series Game 1 at Boston

Larry Bird paced the frontline attack of the Celtics as they dominated the game early against Milwaukee. The Bucks had defeated the Philadelphia 76ers in their opening series in the East by winning Game 5, 102-89 at the Mecca. In that finale, Jack Sikma had gathered in 21 rebounds.

Boston had the antidote to Sikma's power game inside in the center tandem of Robert Parish and Bill Walton. Parish continued to be a major force in the post season by scoring 22 points with 12 rebounds, 4 blocks and a steal. Walton played his strongest game of the season; he scored 4 points with 7 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals, and a block. The import of Walton's presence was the Celtics were able to receive quality play in the middle the entire 48 minutes.

Bird provided the impetus. He established an aggressive attack by Boston by tallying 14 first quarter points. In addition, his three assists influenced Boston's passing game and solid offensive execution. Playing without Kevin McHale, the C's nevertheless had a 34-24 lead at the end of the first quarter. Boston drew out further in the second quarter behind the quintet of Walton-Parish-Bird-Danny Ainge and Dennis Johnson. A four minute 25-11 surge brought the lead to 63-45 with 1:36 left in the half. Although the Bucks snuck back in after several miscues before the end of the half, Boston remained in control.

The Bucks would make a final run in the last quarter, shaving an 85-69 Boston lead to a more manageable 90-82 with 7:00 remaining. But Dennis Johnson twisted inside to score and drew a foul as the Celts ran off six straight points. Order was restored.

Bird led the Celtics with his 40 and Terry Cummings scored 28 for Milwaukee. Paul Pressey provided a dramatic counterpoint: 0-12 from the field for a 2-point game. "Not much to say," stated Bucks Coach Don Nelson, "except we'll play better tomorrow." Game 2 was the following night in back-to-back scheduling.

Boston 126 Milwaukee 124 Game 2 May 6 at Boston Garden

Boston defeated the Bucks in the second of two consecutive games to move ahead, 2-0 in the semi-final round of the playoffs. Danny Ainge proved to be an important figure, scoring 30 points on 11 of 14 shooting from the field. Ainge also hit four 3-point field goals and his three bonus field goals altered the course of the game in the second period.

As Don Nelson had insisted the previous night, his Bucks played a much sounder game in this second contest. Paced by Terry Cummings' and Craig Hodges' scoring and Sidney Moncrief's strong, measured play, the Bucks controlled the tempo of the game for the first thirty minutes. Larry Bird (30 points, 10 rebounds) was suffering through a poor shooting night and late in the first half, the Bucks forged a 56-47 lead and appeared to be gaining a split in the Boston Garden. But Ainge entered here by following Bird's 3-pointer with back-to-back threes. In the span of 2:16, the Celtics had tied the

game. The score would be knotted, 64-64 at halftime.

The second half was different and apparently back in the Celtics' control. Although Milwaukee used Cummings successfully against Kevin McHale in the latter first game action in ten days (isolating the DePaul star against Kevin in a one-four offense), Boston used their starting five to advantage.

Boston would pull through, chiefly behind Dennis Johnson. Johnson was the clutch scorer and creator of hustle plays in the Chicago series and he pulled this game out too, hitting two long jumpers and two crucial free throws. With Boston leading by two, Pressey's last second drive was bottled up by Bird, Parish and Johnson. Parish added 24 points while Cummings led Milwaukee with 28.

Milwaukee 126 Boston 121 OT May 8 at The Mecca, Game 3

Milwaukee fought their way back into the series by edging the Celtics in overtime, 126-121 as they placed six players in double figures. John Lucas led Milwaukee with 30 points. For the losers who rallied improbably in the final 1:16 of regulation with six straight points to send the game into OT, Dennis Johnson led the scoring with 32 points. Kevin McHale came off the bench for the second straight game and scored 25 points. McHale played 38 minutes.

The game was closely contested throughout with 29 lead changes and 12 ties as the Bucks played with the confidence of the playoff-seasoned team that they are.

In the emotionally charged Game 3 in Milwaukee, Boston pressured the favored Bucks throughout. Johnson, bothered by controversy related to the Phoenix Suns drug trials, continued his brilliant playoff performance and kept the C's in it throughout. The Bucks held Larry Bird to 18 FGAs and 18 points, but Robert Parish contributed 18 points and 16 rebounds. Moncrief's 4th quarter play seemed to give Milwaukee the necessary edge for the win, but John's four points and an out-of-bounds lob from Bird to Parish sent the game into overtime.

Boston 138 Milwaukee 137 Game 4 May 11 at The Mecca

Larry Bird scored 42 points and Bird and Kevin McHale stopped a John Lucas transition try in the final seconds of the second overtime to clinch a double overtime win. The game was played at classic playoff tempo as both teams executed effective offenses, shot sharply and did so against excellent defense. Terry Cummings led the Bucks with 31 points.

"What a basketball game," stated Bucks Coach Don Nelson afterward. "The intensity was sensational. There were big plays made by the stars and by the average players."

"The last play was hard," Bird said later. "Kevin and I converged on Lucas, but (Paul) Pressey was wide-open underneath. I never saw him... was lucky we stopped the ball when we did."

The final play of the game was a dramatic sequence. The Bucks' Ricky Pierce rebounded a Johnson miss with eight seconds left and pitched it to Lucas at midcourt. A basket in the transition

would have meant victory, but Bird and McHale bottled the Bucks' point guard up as the buzzer sounded.

Milwaukee 129 Boston 124 Game 5 May 13 at Boston Garden

Sidney Moncrief scored a career playoff high of 33 points to highlight the Bucks upset win over the Celtics. Boston was paced by Robert Parish's outstanding play; Parish scored 30 points with 16 rebounds but provided dramatic counterpoint in the playoff series plot. Late in the game, he twisted his ankle and was forced to miss Game 6, played at the Mecca two nights later.

In the third period, Boston attempted to break the game open behind Parish. He had 13 points in the quarter and outran Milwaukee's Jack Sikma repeatedly. But again the Bucks stuck close and would soon forge the lead, early in the final stanza. An 18-5 run was led by Moncrief and Terry Cummings, the most consistent Bucks' player in this well-played Bucks series. When he drove the left side for a short jumper, Milwaukee led 119-111 with 5:31 remaining.

The final minutes were replete with high drama. Parish sparked a comeback which culminated with a flying offensive rebound and free throw after the concerted carom for a 121-120 lead. This was after he had come down on Sikma's foot moments earlier and sprained the left ankle. It hampered his mobility defensively, setting up Cummings' driving game and particularly a Sikma drive down the lane with :39 remaining. He made two free throws, giving the Bucks a 127-124 lead. Boston attempted to set up for a 3-point field goal, but Bird and Johnson missed last chances with :13 seconds remaining.

Milwaukee 121 Boston 111 Game 6 at The Mecca

Milwaukee was pushed to the brink of elimination in this series on their home floor before rallying in dramatic fashion in the 3rd quarter to overtake the Celtics, 121-111, to send the semi-final series to the seventh game in Boston. The Celtics played without Robert Parish in this game but nevertheless seemed to have the series in hand, led by the remainder of the Iron Man five starting unit.

For example: a 50-35 lead in the first half behind Larry Bird, Dennis Johnson, and a boost from the bench, (Fred Roberts, who would finish the game with 12 points). For example: an 86-74 advantage with 4:54 remaining in the 3rd period behind the powerful board game of Kevin McHale (21 points, 16 rebounds). But the game still had as many twists and turns as your basic weekday soap opera.

These plots and subplots actually began in the second period, when Danny Ainge and Sidney Moncrief fought after Ainge, a former football player, fouled the Bucks' hero (34 points) as Sidney was driving on a breakaway. It was a physical foul, and Moncrief reacted by tackling Ainge, a flying takedown where he lifted the player up and over the endline. Both benches emptied before order was resumed. It typified the emotion of the game, a feeling the Bucks finally made dramatic use of late in the decisive 3rd quarter.

But the game continued on and Boston recovered: Bird, Ainge (twice), Johnson rifled home long 3-point field goals to give

Boston a brief lead, 107-106 at the two minute mark before Milwaukee would again return with the last word. Moncrief hit a tough fadeaway over a perfectly positioned Bird and Pressey and John Lucas also tallied late as the Bucks won. Bird had 22 points and 14 rebounds and Johnson finished with 25 and 14 assists. Boston 119 Milwaukee 113 at Boston Garden Game 7

Capping one of the best seven game series in the NBA annals, the Celtics rallied from the depths to overtake the Bucks in Game 7, 119-113. Boston was forced to rally throughout this outstanding game. Jimmy Rodgers, the Celtics Assistant Coach talked immediately after the game was over about the dramatics of the series, saying, "the interesting part about the series was each team's strengths were effective against the opponent's weaknesses." In the finale, no truer words were ever spoken: Boston outrebounded Milwaukee, 69-36 but Milwaukee had 11 steals and turned the ball over only 6 times. "We were outplaying them by a wide margin," Sidney Moncrief said later. "But their offensive rebounding (25 for Boston) killed us. We should have been up by 20-25 points, the way we were playing."

Instead, the Bucks led 36-29 at the end of the 1st period and that was expanded to 44-35 midway through the second. But Boston managed to stay in it; verifying Moncrief's claim, on one unforgettable sequence, Robert Parish and Kevin McHale repeatedly tipped the ball at the C's basket finally tallying for the home team on a Parish score. Those two players each had 11 rebounds by the half and the Celtics had rallied to within 59-56 at that juncture. The ensuing eighteen minutes were excruciatingly thrilling. Boston finally garnered the lead at 8:36 on a Parish offensive rebound and on a Garden-shattering sequence, Parish rejected a Jack Sikma shot leading to a McHale jam. Boston would stay even until Danny Ainge went down trying to halt a Paul Pressey drive. Ainge had to be helped off and his absence coincided with Milwaukee reasserting control of the game. They again surged to an 86-80 lead when Ricky Pierce connected on a driving 3-point play. Although the C's would rally briefly, Milwaukee had the advantage for the next seven minutes, expanding the lead to 104-96 at 7:04 and 108-100 at 5:52.

"You looked out there, and now with Danny hurt, you began to wonder if it was worth it," Larry Bird said later. It was; Bird hit a 13-footer, McHale a preposterous fadeaway looping banker in which he was fouled, and Jerry Sichting wrapped up the first phase of the surge with back-to-back jumpers against the Bucks trapping defense. By then, the Garden had lost its sanity, and the Celtics were winning the game. Bird scored another jumper and made six straight free throws, and Parish keyed the defense as Boston advanced into the finals, like a hurricane.

Parish finished the game with 23 points and 19 rebounds proving again how vital he has been to the construction of the Bird Era champions. Bird led the scoring with 31 and McHale had 26 points with 15 rebounds. Johnson had 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Celtics Playoff Box Scores

Celtics, 111 — Milwaukee, 98 at Boston Garden

BOSTON												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts		Min	FG	FT	Reb
Roberts	36	10-15	2-2	3-12	3	4	13	Parish	35	10-15	2-2	3-12
Bird	44	13-23	1-2	2-11	7	2	40	Johnson	42	8-16	4-4	0-4
Parish	35	10-15	2-2	3-12	3	4	22	Ainge	34	1-9	0-0	0-0
Johnson	42	8-16	4-4	0-4	7	2	20	Sichting	20	2-5	0-2	2-7
Ainge	34	1-9	0-0	0-0	1	2	0	Walton	11	0-1	0-0	0-0
Sichting	20	2-5	0-2	2-7	4	2	4	Days	8	1-2	0-0	0-0
Walton	11	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	Vincent	8	1-2	0-0	0-0
Days	8	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	Kite	1	0-0	0-0	0-0
Vincent	8	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	Henry	1	0-0	0-0	0-0
Kite	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0					
Henry	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0					

MILWAUKEE												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts		Min	FG	FT	Reb
Pressey	23	3-6	2-3	2-5	6	5	9	Cummings	36	12-19	4-4	0-4
Cummings	36	12-19	4-4	0-4	5	5	28	Sikma	41	6-15	7-7	3-14
Sikma	41	6-15	7-7	3-14	3	4	19	Moncrief	42	5-13	5-6	1-4
Moncrief	42	5-13	5-6	1-4	4	3	5	Lucas	27	6-14	1-2	2-4
Lucas	27	6-14	1-2	2-4	4	3	16	Mokeski	14	1-2	3-3	2-4
Mokeski	14	1-2	3-3	2-4	0	2	5	Pierce	23	6-9	8-8	1-2
Pierce	23	6-9	8-8	1-2	0	3	20	Hodges	18	5-10	2-2	0-2
Hodges	18	5-10	2-2	0-2	4	3	12	Bradley	2	0-1	0-0	0-0
Bradley	2	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	Breuer	13	0-1	0-0	1-2
Breuer	13	0-1	0-0	1-2	1	5	0	Mokeski	15	0-2	0-2	1-3
Mokeski	15	0-2	0-2	1-3	0	2	0	Reynolds	1	0-0	0-0	0-0
Reynolds	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0					

BOSTON												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts		Min	FG	FT	Reb
Roberts	22	2-4	5-5	0-2	1	3	9	Bird	44	10-21	9-12	1-1
Bird	44	10-21	9-12	1-1	5	2	30	Parish	39	8-13	8-8	0-4
Parish	39	8-13	8-8	0-4	0	3	24	Johnson	40	8-13	5-6	2-10
Johnson	40	8-13	5-6	2-10	5	2	21	Ainge	41	4-13	3-4	1-3
Ainge	41	4-13	3-4	1-3	2	2	14	Johnson	50	11-17	9-9	1-5
Johnson	50	11-17	9-9	1-5	14	4	32	McHale	38	8-14	9-12	2-6
McHale	38	8-14	9-12	2-6	0	6	25	Kite	13	1-4	0-0	1-4
Kite	13	1-4	0-0	1-4	0	1	2	Sichting	14	2-4	0-0	0
Sichting	14	2-4	0-0	0	0	1	4	Days	7	0-1	3-4	0-0
Days	7	0-1	3-4	0-0	0	2	3	Vincent	1	0-0	0-0	0
Vincent	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	Henry	1	0-0	1-2	0-0
Henry	1	0-0	1-2	0-0	0	0	1					

MILWAUKEE												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts		Min	FG	FT	Reb
Pressey	23	3-6	2-3	2-5	6	5	9	Cummings	36	12-19	4-4	0-4
Cummings	36	12-19	4-4	0-4	5	5	28	Sikma	41	6-15	7-7	3-14
Sikma	41	6-15	7-7	3-14	3	4	19	Moncrief	42	5-13	5-6	1-4
Moncrief	42	5-13	5-6	1-4	4	3	5	Lucas	27	6-14	1-2	2-4
Lucas	27	6-14	1-2	2-4	4	3	16	Mokeski	14	1-2	3-3	2-4
Mokeski	14	1-2	3-3	2-4	0	2	5	Pierce	23	6-9	8-8	1-2
Pierce	23	6-9	8-8	1-2	0	3	20	Hodges	18	5-10	2-2	0-2
Hodges	18	5-10	2-2	0-2	4	3	12	Bradley	2	0-1	0-0	0-0
Bradley	2	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	Breuer	13	0-1	0-0	1-2
Breuer	13	0-1	0-0	1-2	1	5	0	Mokeski	15	0-2	0-2	1-3
Mokeski	15	0-2	0-2	1-3	0	2	0	Reynolds	1	0-0	0-0	0-0
Reynolds	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0					

BOSTON												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts		Min	FG	FT	Reb
Roberts	22	2-4	5-5	0-2	1	3	9	Bird	44	10-21	9-12	1-1
Bird	44	10-21	9-12	1-1	5	2	30	Parish	39	8-13	8-8	0-4
Parish	39	8-13	8-8	0-4	0	3	24	Johnson	40	8-13	5-6	2-10
Johnson	40	8-13	5-6	2-10	5	2	21	Ainge	41	4-13	3-4	1-3
Ainge	41	4-13	3-4	1-3	2	2	14	Johnson	50	11-17	9-9	1-5
Johnson	50	11-17	9-9	1-5	14	4	32	McHale	38	8-14	9-12	2-6
McHale	38	8-14	9-12	2-6	0	6	25	Kite	13	1-4	0-0	1-4
Kite	13	1-4	0-0	1-4	0	1	2	Sichting	14	2-4	0-0	0
Sichting	14	2-4	0-0	0	0	1	4	Days	7	0-1	3-4	0-0
Days	7	0-1	3-4	0-0	0	2	3	Vincent	1	0-0	0-0	0
Vincent	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	Henry	1	0-0	1-2	0-0
Henry	1	0-0	1-2	0-0	0	0	1					

Crawford, Marino, Savola.

Celtics' Eliminat

Let's play a trivia game. Take a pen and paper and start writing your list of the top schoolboy, schoolgirl, and college men and women basketball players who have played at Massachusetts schools or hail from Massachusetts cities and towns over the last five years. Take your time.

Now let's check your list. Got Jay Murphy? Butch Wade? Reggie Lewis? How about John Garriss, Greg Simpson, Matt Pallazzi, Champ Godbolt, Gene Miles, Paul Sewart, the Middleton brothers, Rumeal Robinson, Michael Adams, Mark Plansky, the Bucholtz twins, and Bobby Francis?

Where's your girls list? You must have Tonya Cardoza, Hanya Bluestone, Denise West, Janet Hourihan, Rhonda Jackson, Averill Roberts, and Chris Cadigan. Did you remember Jackie Lausier, Doreen Ferguson and Nicole Dequatro?

Wait! Lets go back to the men! Did you get Cross star Jim McAfferty, and Plansky's N.C.A.A. Champion teammate, Worcester's Dwayne McLain. Out West there was Mark Peabody, Dana Gahres, Kevin McCaskill and Kermit Sharpe.

That list is pretty good. But, we're just getting started on the list of hoop stars who have led the regional rivalries, of top high school and college talent, on tap each summer in the Olympic setting of Massachusetts' own sports festival, the Bay State Games.

Though nearly four thousand athletes in twenty sports will converge on Boston for the summer games finals, July 9-12, the best known names, and some of the finest athletes can be found in Basketball at the GAMES.

Thousands of hopefuls attend tryouts held throughout the state as they compete for spots on their region's teams in sports from basketball to swimming, track and field, ice and field hockey to wrestling and fifteen other sports in the Olympic family. Once they earn their chance, they prepare to take on the rest of the state's best in their division.

The Basketball competition has always been intense with some very interesting matchups. High school rivals, playing on the same team. The state high schools' alumni return from college to strut their stuff while home for the summer. College teammates pick off each others passes and set up their regular season opponents. Future stars put the hoop world on notice that they will be reckoned with in the years to come. The best talent in the best facilities, provide one of the best basketball shows of the year. It all happens at the Bay State Games.

The Olympic setting is something to behold too! The big, jazzy, entertaining Opening Ceremony, features all of the finalists, many former Olympians and present pro stars. A series of special effects and special guests light up the night and the athletes are center stage. Then its on to the chase for the medals in track and field, swimming, ice hockey, field hockey, gymnastics, cycling, sailing, volleyball, wrestling, soccer and ten more sports for all of the variety seen only every four years nationally, but every year in Massachusetts.

The Athletes of the GAMES are Massachusetts' best. In '86 there were stars from 341 of the state's 351 cities, villages and towns. They play in divisions for scholastic (chiefly high school freshmen through juniors) open (mostly college and

Summer Hoop Showcase at the Bay State Games

Great Stuff

young adults) and masters, (for the experienced, and dedicated, if somewhat battle-weary athletes). The GAMES are a true local Olympics, with many opportunities and a great experience for all.

This year is a special one for the Bay State Games. It's the fifth anniversary of what many call the brightest idea in amateur sports in many decades. Massachusetts is recognized nationally as a leader in state games. Bay State Games founder and Executive Director, Doug Arnot, also serves as President of the National Congress of State Games, the national organization which is made up the leaders of this exciting amateur sports movement across the country.

State games began with New York in 1978 then Florida in 1980 and next Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Indiana. Few saw the future coming so quickly. Now 37 states are involved in state games with 25 actively hosting their own state

sports festival. The U.S.O.C., seeing the promise state games hold for future Olympic teams, has shown enthusiastic support. College and National team coaches see state games as fertile recruiting ground, and athletes across the country are being offered opportunities for top-notch competition never before available.

Yet, the Bay State Games are clearly something more than an athletic event. There's a spirit shown in the athletes, the volunteer coaches, officials, medical and communications teams, the donated facilities, government and private sector financial assistance, and so much more which makes it clear that the GAMES are a special celebration for amateur sports and the opportunities for personal development possible through dedication to goals in amateur sports.

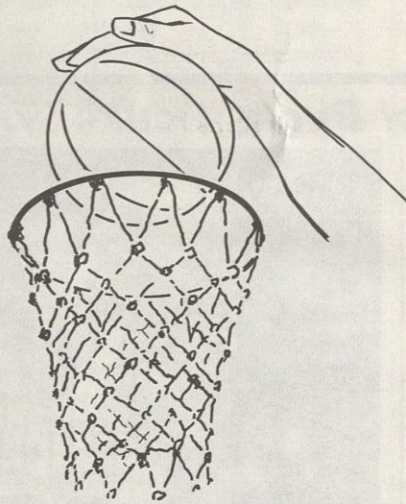
The '87 GAMES basketball will begin with preliminary rounds at Harvard, and

B.U. on July 9 and 10. The Opening ceremony will be held below the world Championship banners of the Celtics and Bruins in historic Boston Garden on the evening of Friday, July 10. M.I.T, Boston Harbor, the Charles River and Memorial Drive, Burlington Ice Palace and Randolph ice rink will all host events in the nineteen other sports.

The medal rounds in basketball will be at UMASS Boston for the men and boys on July 11 and 12 while the women and girls will be at B.U. on the same dates.

So, if you can't make it to Seoul, or are just a real Basketball junkie, there's a special treat in store for you at the 1987 Bay State Games. Tickets are a genuine deal at \$2 for all events, all day passes (special \$5 family pass) and are available by mail from the Bay State Games Office, (617-727-3227) through GAMES sponsor, Bank of Boston, branches, or at the Garden box office.

GREAT STUFF!!



BAY STATE GAMES BASKETBALL

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1987 BAY STATE GAMES

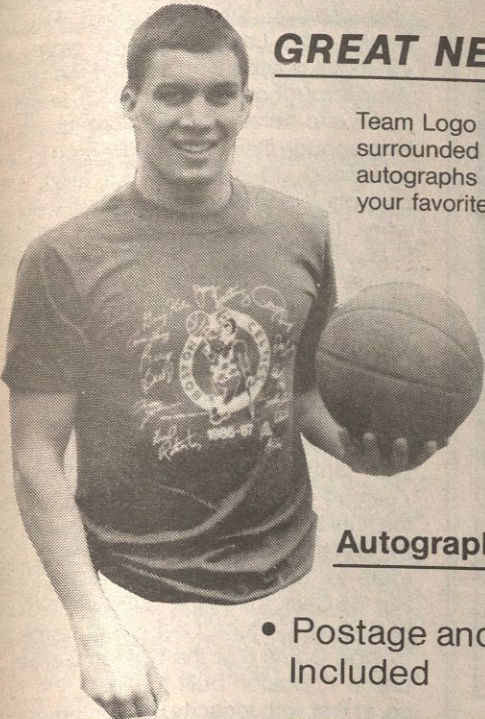
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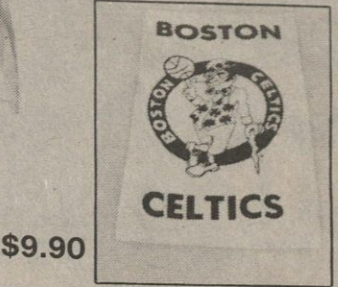
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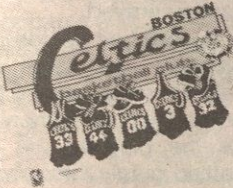
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Celtics Classics

The '69 Celtics: Last Team to Repeat



The '69 Celtics: A Family.

order to try and have them playing at full strength for the playoffs. In 1968-69, the strategy worked as the team received powerful performances from Jones and Russell. But this season, questions hovered as the team prepared for the playoffs season's final stages. Walton and McHale continued to be troubled.

At the end of the 1969 Celtics playoff road were the Los Angeles Lakers. Annual foes of the Celtics in the sixties behind Jerry West and Elgin Baylor, the Lakers that year had acquired Chamberlain in what they hoped would bring together the elements of West's shooting, defense, and clutch skill; Baylor's complementary scoring and leadership; and Chamberlain's rebounding power in the low post (at this stage of Wilt's career, he had placed aside his hunger for scoring). This unfathomable collection seemingly was the seed this era's Lakers team has bore fruit from in the eighties. Johnson, Abdul-Jabbar, Worthy, Cooper, and Mychal Thompson are great individual talents who this season led the way as the Lakers finished with the best record in the regular season (65-17). In the latter stages of 1968-69, the Celtics ceded their challenge for regular season supremacy; this year, the C's similarly were forced to relinquish their regular season title. If the Celtics and Lakers meet in The Finals this season, the Lakers would have the home court advantage. In 1969 the Lakers also had the odd game in The Forum.

"The most memorable championship for me," offered John Havlicek, "was the one we won in 1969. We were injured, we finished fourth in the conference, and most people figured we wouldn't be around in the end." According to Red Auerbach, the critical difference in the playoffs was Bill Russell playing at a level "that was altogether different." The fascinating feature of a great basketball team—especially a Celtics basketball team—is the dual identity of the player as individual and team part. There was Havlicek on that 1969 team; he averaged 47.2 minutes per game! He was the somewhat overlooked star of the Celtics

throughout the sixties but in the 1968-69 playoffs he was a peerless athletic warrior. He ran the court continuously, played defense against the brilliant stars of the day at the forward (Chet Walker) and guard (Walt Frazier and Jerry West) positions. Sam Jones was in the descent of a storied career however; Havlicek nailed the clinching jumper to put the Knicks away in the '69 Eastern Conference final series and later, Don Nelson crushed the Lakers in Game 7 in The Forum, a memorable step-back that hit the rim, bounded high up into the air, and finally, seemingly suspended in history, fell through the basket. That Nelson shot stifled a West-led rally and without it, the repeating dilemma would have dated back to 1964-65, 1965-66 (Boston).

Sam Jones was the player the Celtics always formerly went to in the clutch, a Bird-forerunner. He clinched series against Syracuse in 1959, Philadelphia in 1962, and he dribbled out the clock after Havlicek's legendary 1965 steal against Philadelphia. Sam played reduced minutes in the 1969 championship season but contributed in two significant ways. He won Game 4 against the Lakers with another shot that eerily bounced upon the rim and fell through for an 88-87 win. And he accepted his role—relief minutes in a glimmering spotlight.

The present respect for Don Nelson throughout the NBA today is an unlikely result from the ashes of the beginning of his career. The Ralph Miller product was discarded by the Chicago Zephyrs and according to Auerbach, resigned that his career was through. But the Celtics were able to use his talents of spot shooting and especially positioning to maximum use in the playoff. Nelson's additional attribute was his pride in being a Celtic; he played with abandon and smarts and he had trouble letting go, languishing on the bench in 1976 miserable over his lack of playing time. Now he's an antihero—as coach of the Bucks, he's feuded at different times with K.C. Jones, Danny Ainge, and even Auerbach. But he's a

great coach. There were other supporting characters in the 1969 cast: Emmette Bryant and Larry Siegfried were also villainous guards who chased the brilliant West throughout the final series and were in the end heroic, shutting him down just long enough in Game 7 for Boston to build a needed 20-point (80-60) lead. Later both players were released from the team when Tom Heinsohn took over following Russell's retirement. The solid Mississippi native, Bailey Howell, was a tower of reliable strength on boards for that '69 team.

But the key was Russell, returned to action again in the unlikely locale of Sacramento, the best basketball team player ever, together with Bird. Briefly: after Boston defeated the Philadelphia 76ers (4-1) and the Knicks (4-2) to reach the final series against LA, the Lakers won the first two games and appeared to be en route to their first win ever over Boston. But the Celtics won the following two back in Boston, LA took Game 5 at home and Boston Game 6 at the Boston Garden. In Game 7, Boston built the lead and hung on, at first with tenacity until determination became desperation. Russell battled Chamberlain in that final series between the two men. Wilt once had 55 rebounds vs. Russell but Auerbach was always certain Russell measured up to Wilt when payday arrived.

Russell had decided earlier that year—privately—that 1969 would be his last year. He rested during the regular season, preparing himself mentally and physically for the playoffs. He and Chamberlain battled grimly throughout the final series, as they had throughout their careers. It continued in the Celtic's final game. Until Chamberlain twisted his knee late in the game. At that point, West began firing home that memorable graceful jumper in the context of a quicker lineup. Laker Coach Butch Van Breda Kolf refused to put Wilt back in the game and Boston held on to win. It's a game and young men play it. But Russell blasted Chamberlain in a speech several months after he announced his retirement; he, Russell, would never have "quit" as Chamberlain seemed to have done that night in The Forum. Chamberlain and Russell had been friends but have not spoken since. It's been eighteen years.

Bill Russell was the heart of the Celtics and perhaps he continues to be part of the pulse that continues to generate this special team. K.C. Jones is probably this man's best friend; contrary to written reports and speculation, Jones swears, this is the kindest man he knows, always willing to help a friend who needs it. Contrast this with a public figure who snubbed many interviews, continued to face critical press as late as that Game 7 in 1969. A complex man: place those views alongside the image of the stoic face who broke down in tears of recognition—when Auerbach presented him as the "greatest ever" in the fall of 1980. Russell finally also is a symbol; his significant contribution was never statistics, it was inspiring men to play as a team and asking them to sublimate personal goals for the sake of a team. It has carried on and it continues to give the Celtics a real chance to win again this year (if the injuries aren't too crippling).

Thank You, M.L.

The fondest memory of the Celtics that I have is really one that happened to my 12-year-old son, Michael.

Two years ago M.L. Carr was appearing at our local branch of The Bank of Boston for a promotion, regarding fingerprinting children for identification purposes. Being an avid M.L. Carr fan, Michael was the first to arrive at the bank. Upon M.L.'s arrival a little later, he immediately began talking to my son and walking around with him. When more children began to show up, M.L. informed Michael that he would be his assistant for the day during the promotion. Well, that made Michael's day, spending time with M.L. Carr, but the best was yet to come. When the promotion was over, M.L. drove Michael to a local ice cream store and bought some ice cream for Michael, himself, and one for my wife, Nancy. Upon arriving home to drop Michael off, much to my wife's surprise, M.L. came in and sat down to eat the ice cream with them.

He stayed nearly an hour and a half, talking, joking and signing everything Michael asked him to. My wife said it was as if he was an old friend the way they talked and passed the time. Nancy was never a sports fan, but after M.L.'s visit, she immediately became a M.L. Carr fan. She could not believe his personality, his charm, his sense of humor and especially how nice he was to Michael.

Our only regret of the day was that we did not have any film for our camera for

Thanks for the Memories

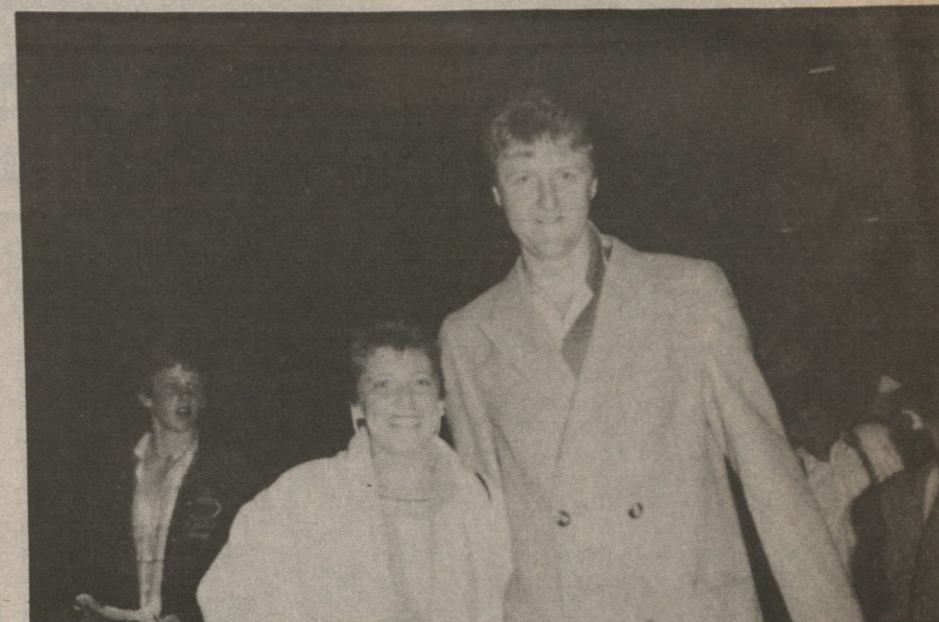
some pictures. But what we do have are memories, memories of M.L. being in our house, and memories of a Celtic making a young boy's dream come true, being with his favorite Celtic.

Thank you, M.L. Carr.
Joe, Nancy and Michael Cesarini
48 Huntington Ave.
Brockton, MA 02401

Still Time for Fans

To some sports fans, the players and coaches of their favorite team seem to be untouchable superstars. Sometimes, it is hard to believe that they lead normal lives when they are not on the field, arena or court. As a BIG Celtics fan, I dreamed of seeing the way the players look and act out of uniform and off the court.

On October 5, 1986, my dream came true. After watching the Celtics beat the Indiana Pacers, my friend, Donna, and I were determined to get autographs and pictures of each player. Donna knew where to go (outside of the Garden) to see them come out. Though I couldn't imagine myself actually meeting the players, we went outside and waited. After a while, one by one, they actually came out; first Scott Wedman, then Bill Walton; it was incredible! Suddenly we could see a tall figure moving across the parking lot—Danny Ainge was trying to sneak out! Nervously, we ran to his car. Even though he was in a hurry, he still had time for his fans. It took a while for everyone else to



Larry & Mia: A Cold Winter's Night.

come out, but we would wait until the last player drove away. Slowly but surely the rest came out. I couldn't believe I was so close and even exchanging a few words with them! Finally, all but two were gone. Since it was pretty late, I expected D.J. and Larry to be impatient and anxious to get home. That was hardly true! They both came out smiling and making jokes. They seemed more than happy to stop and pose for a couple of pictures.

When I think back of what happened on that night, it seems too good to be true. I

look at the pictures and the great excitement comes back to me. I didn't expect any of the players to be half as friendly as they were. I can remember Bill Walton thanking us (the fans) for waiting in the cold. I will always remember how the Celtics took a few minutes to show their appreciation to their fans. They proved to me that they are the best team in the NBA.

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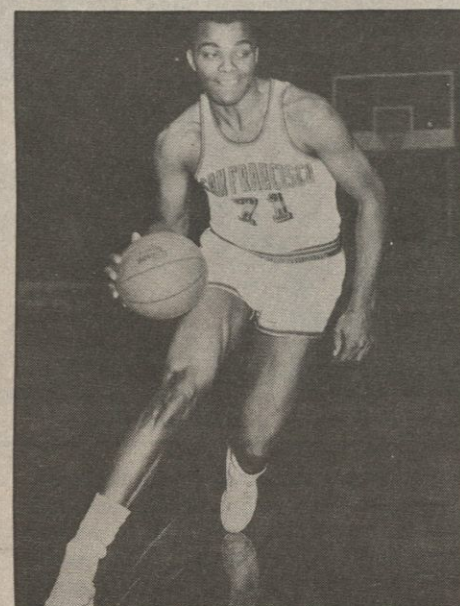
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Celtics Greats

Willie Naulls Works on All Levels

Symbol of Success



Naulls: Intelligent and Skilled Leader.

Francisco began generating winning momentum at the expense of the great Naulls and Wooden at Westwood. Naulls, of course, would rejoin Jones and Russell in Boston late in Willie's career, from 1963-66. And Wooden would go on and coach the collegiate counterpart of the professional dynasty the Celtics established under Red Auerbach. UCLA won nine championships from 1966-73.

Naulls's career started slowly. According to Wooden, the player was initially too easy-going and the necessary killer instinct on the basketball floor was absent. But Naulls's love for the game altered events; he worked at his multifaceted game (powerful driving game, good shooter inside with both hands, excellent rebounder) to become a great star in college.

That talent took Naulls a great distance in the NBA. He was taken by the St. Louis Hawks in the 1956 draft and went on to have excellent individual seasons for the Hawks and the New York Knicks. He hit his offensive peak between 1959-62,

averaging 21.3 ppg, 23.4 ppg, and 25.0 in those years. Naulls was seventh in the league in scoring in 1962, when Wilt Chamberlain led the league with a 50.4 ppg average. Naulls finished 2nd in the league in Free Throw shooting, connecting on 383-455 for an .842 mark. Later, injuries would slow his game down appreciably. Naulls was traded to the Warriors in 1963 and decided to retire at the end of that season.

At the end of that year, Jones and Russell suggested Red Auerbach should pick the player up if possible. Naulls was signed and reported to training camp in the fall of 1964; after one day in Auerbach's legendary Pre-Season training camp, he collapsed from exhaustion, declaring that in the previous seven seasons he had been in the league, nothing compared to Red's training technique. In the Celtic dynasty years, Boston always would start the season fast, often galloping games ahead of the rest of the league while their contenders were playing themselves into condition.

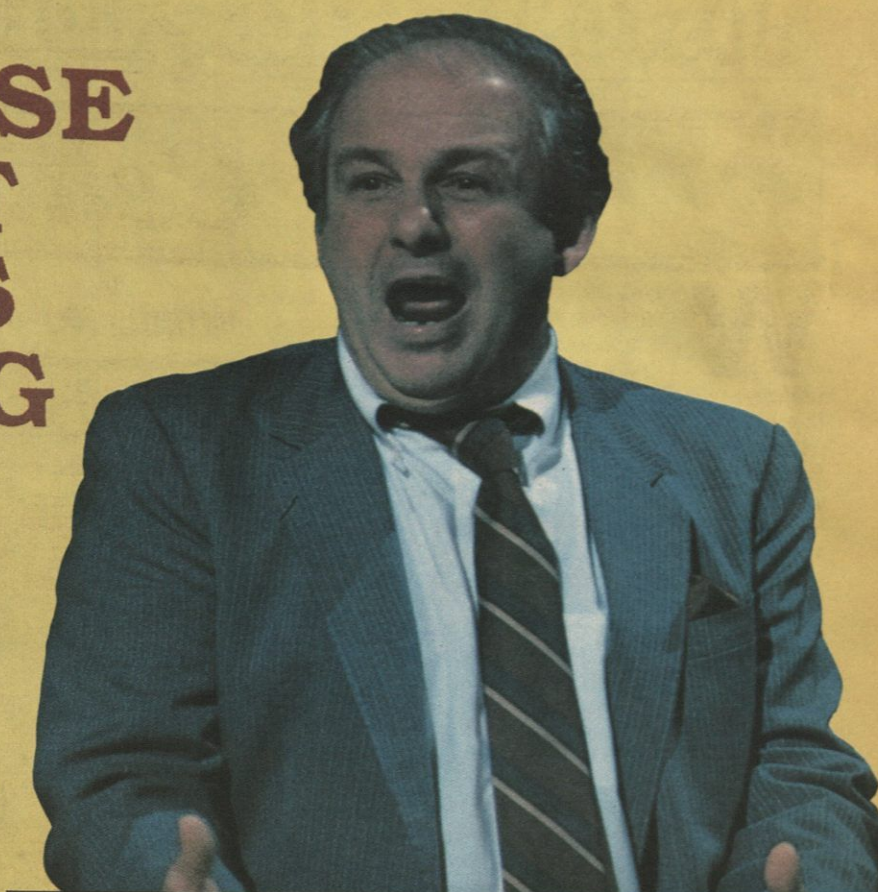
Willie Naulls played three productive years in Boston garnering three championship rings. He retired in 1966 at the age of 31 after creating another parcel of basketball history. After an injury to Tom Heinsohn, Naulls joined Jones, Sam Jones, Russell, and Satch Sanders as the first all Black starting five in the league.

The success ethic which drives Bill Walton similarly drives Willie Naulls, both men a product of Wooden's and Auerbach's guidance. Naulls and Auerbach converse frequently and K.C. Jones spoke glowingly of Naulls in his autobiography. K.C. was moving up the coaching career ladder in 1971 and made a 3,000 mile transition to Los Angeles to coach under Bill Sharman with the Lakers. Naulls had Jones stay with him and his family and helped advise the present Celtic mentor when K.C. decided to coach in the fledgling American Basketball Association in 1972. Later, when the good times rolled in for K.C. and Ellen Jones and K.C. was about to be named head man of his beloved Celtics, Jones wrote about the excitement of the moment and touchingly referred to Naulls, "Almost everyone in sports now uses an agent to negotiate contracts. So, did I pick up the phone and call my pal Willie Naulls and have him rush in from the coast to deal with Red? Wow!" In his most reassured career moment, K.C.'s mind rushed to Naulls.

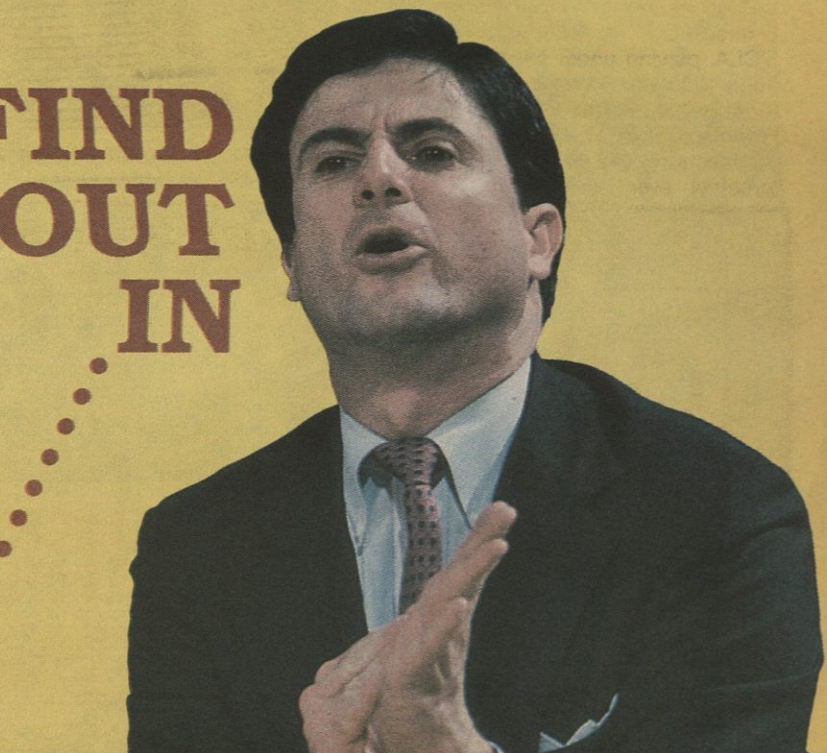
Today Naulls has invested in community services projects for minorities in Los Angeles. He has continued building upon the success he achieved in basketball; his work includes this investment in the community as well as negotiating contracts for players, as he has done in the past. To one friend, Naulls's success isn't surprising. He told Dwight Chapin and Jeff Prugh in *The Wizard of Westwood*: "Willie's extremely bright. Throughout his pro career, he was sharp enough to recognize that he couldn't play basketball forever. He saved his dough and when he quit, he had a sizeable amount of capital. One of the keys to Willie's success has been that he knows if he doesn't have the ability, he admits it to himself and seeks the proper information intelligently, then utilizes it to his best advantage."



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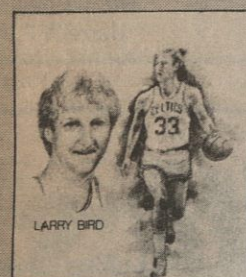
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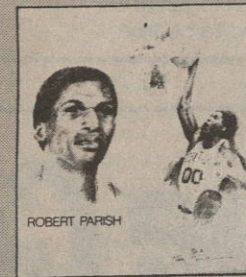
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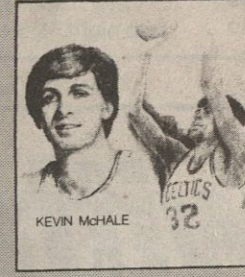
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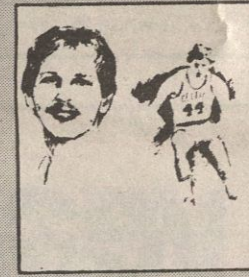
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